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Minister and more than 120 candidates disclose their opposition to single currency

## Tories rush into ranks of Eurosceptics

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

MORE THAN 120 former Conservative MPs had last night joined the headlong rush to declare their antipathy to a single European currency after being let off the leash by John Major last week.

They include a junior minister who put his job on the line by openly breaching the Government's wait-and-see approach, while a number of other ministers are more covertly letting their constituents know their opposition to monetary union.

The education minister James Paice — whose Cambridge South East constituency adjoins John Major's — was the first minister to nail his colours firmly to the mast, writing in his election address that a single currency would be "a huge step leading inexorably towards political union".

"I do not believe Britain or Europe is ready for that," the statement means that Mr Major will come under pressure to sack him today, having made clear last week that ministers who broke the line would be dismissed.

A survey by *The Times* has found that nine other ministers have constituency staff who tell inquirers of their hostility to monetary union — even though they stick to the government line in their official literature. They included Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary.

The former Tory MPs expressing their opposition in campaign literature included Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of

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the backbench 1922 Committee, two former advisers to Mr Clarke — David Ruffley, candidate for Bury St Edmunds, and David Cameron, candidate for Stafford — and most of those with party posts at Conservative Central Office.

The survey shows that much of the Conservative party in the country is standing on a different platform from the Government. But senior ministers — while conceding that the appearance of disunity would be damaging — were privately emphasising the advantages of a large number of Conservative candidates coming out against the single currency.

One said: "It is playing well on the doorsteps. We did not want it to happen like this, but now it is time to make the best of it." The greatest fear among party strategists is of a backlash from the pro-European wing which could throw the campaign into turmoil.

Edwina Currie was quick to remonstrate yesterday, saying: "It's a bit odd if policy is being made by candidates and not by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet."

And the opposition parties had already gone on the attack

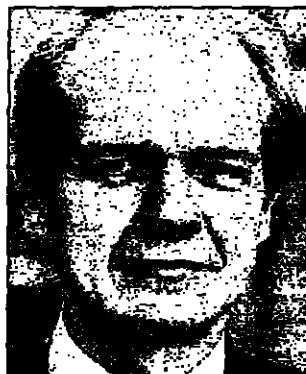
after Dame Angela Rumbold, a Tory vice-chairman in charge of candidates, declared her outright opposition to a single currency. Labour said the Tories were "plunging into civil war" and the Liberal Democrats said the party was breaking up.

Tony Blair said Tory ministers would be like "ferrets in a sack" if the Government were re-elected, fighting for jobs but with different views on issues like Europe. "No-one knows where the Government stands. No one even knows where Government ministers stand."

But Mr Major emphasised that Dame Angela was in a different position from members of the Government. "Like every other backbencher she is entitled to express her views on an issue which may or may not come to fruition in unknown circumstances at an unknown time."

The number of Tory candidates coming out against the single currency is expected to soar over the next few days. Paul Sykes, the Yorkshire businessman helping to finance candidates who are against monetary union, has so far backed 167 and expects the figure to go up to 200.

The Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley went close to dismissing the prospects for a single currency. Asked whether he could imagine any circumstances in which he would vote in favour of it, he said: "I have such a fertile imagination I can imagine almost anything."



**WILLIAM HAGUE**  
Campaign leaflet: "Referendum before decision"  
Campaign HQ: "Not in favour of single currency"



**MICHAEL FORSYTH**  
Leaflet: No reference to single currency  
HQ: "Privately opposed to it"



**MICHAEL ANCRAM**  
Leaflet: "No diminishing of sovereignty"  
HQ: "Does not want a single currency to happen"



**SIR PAUL BERESFORD**  
Leaflet: Not released  
HQ: "No circumstances in near future where he would vote for it"



**SIMON BURNS**  
Leaflet: No comment  
HQ: "In a vote I think you would find he would not support single currency"



**ERIC FORTH**  
Leaflet: "Opposes a federal Europe"  
HQ: "Does not support single currency"



**ROGER KNAPMAN**  
Leaflet: "No more erosion of sovereignty"  
HQ: "Absolutely opposed"



**JOHN WATTS**  
Leaflet: None yet  
Said: "Totally opposed to fudged single currency"



**GWILYM JONES**  
Leaflet: "No to federal Europe"  
HQ: "Draw your own conclusions"

## Policy changes when local HQs answer the questions

By Andrew Pierce, Mark Henderson, Dominic Kennedy and Valerie Elliott

A SURVEY carried out by *The Times* has found that ministers are unofficially breaching the Government's wait and see policy in their constituency campaigning.

Inquiries by *Times* reporters about the personal views of ministers found that they officially set out the Government's carefully crafted line in their election literature.

But staff working for them in their constituencies campaign freely to volunteer the information that their candidates are strongly hostile to a single currency.

Reporters, posing as constituents, asked the association officers of 40 ministers whether their election addresses reflected the wait and see line. In the case of nine of them, including two Cabinet Ministers — William Hague and Michael Forsyth — the reporters were told of the ministers' strong antipathy towards economic and monetary union.

Many more officials refused to discuss the European issue and insisted that inquiries should be made with the candidate direct. But the responses revealed that opposition to the single currency is widespread in the ranks of the Government itself and Conservative Party headquarters.

The leading rebels are: William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, has written: "If ever a single currency were to be proposed there should be a referendum of the whole country before a final decision was taken." His office in Northampton, told a reporter: "It's for your personal use. He is not in favour of a single currency."

Secretary, makes no reference to the single currency in his election address. "Privately opposed to it," according to his staff.

Michael Ancram, Northern Ireland Minister, says in his election address that he "will not support anything which diminishes our sovereignty". Privately, his campaign headquarters, said he "does not want" a single currency to happen. Asked if that meant he opposed the abolition of the pound, the reply was: "You may think that. I could not possibly comment."

Sir Paul Beresford, Environment Minister, declined to reveal the contents of his election address which will be released later this week.

Tim Hall, his agent, speaking on the record to *The Times*, said: "Sir Paul's line is that he does not see any circumstances in the near future where we will join it or where he would vote for it."

Simon Burns, Junior Health Minister, who is defending Chelmsford West, makes no comment about the single currency in his election address. A spokeswoman for his campaign headquarters said: "As a Government Minister he is following the line. He is not one of those Europhiles. In a vote I think you would find he would not support a single currency. He is a Eurosceptic."

Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister of State, says he "opposes a federal Europe... [and] any further transfer of powers from Britain to Europe". Unofficial response: "Ask him

Continued on page 2, col 6

### Pound reaches a post-ERM high

The pound surged on the foreign exchange yesterday, rising to its highest level against the German mark since its abrupt departure from the exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992.

Shares also rose sharply, with the FTSE 100 index of leading shares closing 35.1 points higher at 4,286.8. Page 29

### Water companies fear extended tax

Labour is believed to be considering extending its planned windfall tax across the entire water industry despite 20 local companies saying that they have had none of the windfall benefits of privatisation. The companies serve about a quarter of England and Wales. Page 30

## Hundreds killed in pilgrim camp fires

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

UP TO 300 people were killed and 800 injured yesterday when fires raged through two pilgrim camps on the way to Mecca.

Witnesses described mass panic as flames licked through the closely pitched white tents, driven by fierce winds.

Huge palls of smoke blacked out the sunlight over a camp in the plains of Mena as the emergency services struggled to cope. Many of the dead — who were mostly Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis — were said to have been crushed in the rush to escape the blaze. Some local reports put the death toll at more than 300, others said that 181 were known to have died.

Suzanne Kassem said: "It

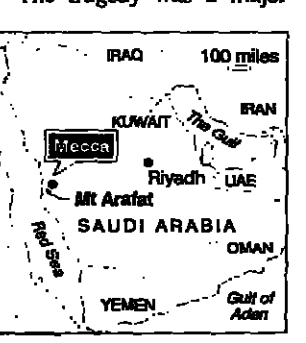
started off with just small puffs of black smoke. It started spreading in size until the day looked like night. Gas tanks were exploding everywhere like bombs. People were running around. It was mass hysteria. Everyone was running around like cattle."

The fire broke out as some of the two million people on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca were beginning to move en masse towards Mt Arafat. Some witnesses said that it was caused by a gas canisters used for cooking; others blaming faulty wiring in an air conditioning circuit.

As news of the main fire spread, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that a second had broken out in the Iranian encampments on Mt Arafat 12 miles southwest of Mecca.

Before the blaze broke out,

Saudi television showed pictures of many of the pilgrims in their traditional dress — two simple white sheets for men and long white or black robes plus headscarves for women — carrying umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun as they made the journey to Mena chanting: "I have answered your call, God. There is no one God but you."



embarrassment for the Saudi authorities, who are the proud guardians of the world's two holiest Islamic sites at Mecca and Medina and have spent \$18.6 billion expanding facilities in Mecca. Shortly before the blaze, Saudi officials claimed that they had been doing their best to ensure a safe Haj for the pilgrims from some 100 countries.

Every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it is obliged to perform the pilgrimage once. But the Haj has been dogged by tragedy. The worst was seven years ago when 1,426 pilgrims died in an overcrowded tunnel at Mena, probably because of a breakdown of the ventilation system. And in 1994, 270 pilgrims, most of them Indonesian, were killed in a stampede in Mecca when the crowd surged forward uncontrollably towards a cavern for the ritual of "stoning the devil".

Fire, hostage-taking, political disturbances and bombings have also taken a huge toll. In 1987 402 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims, were killed and 649 wounded in Mecca when Saudi security forces clashed with Iranians staging an illegal anti-US and anti-Israel demonstration.

The most dramatic incident was in 1979 when several hundred armed men hostile to the conservative Saudi government barricaded themselves inside Mecca's Grand Mosque for two weeks, taking pilgrims hostage. Some 153 people were killed and 560 injured in the fighting. A year later 301 passengers were killed when a Pakistani jet caught fire after a passenger lit a kerosene stove in an aisle to brew tea.

## Carey rules out Church blessing for gay 'marriages'

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has made one of his strongest statements on homosexuality, ruling out the possibility of the Church of England sanctioning same-sex relationships among the clergy.

Dr Carey, in the final documentary in the *Archbishop's series*, to be broadcast on ITV this Sunday, makes clear that the Church will never bless gay "marriages". He says the Church recognises

marriage and celibacy, and nothing in between.

"In the 1980s, the issue of homosexuality was just beginning to emerge as a problem for all the churches. With hindsight we can criticise people of that period," he says. "Now we're in a different ball game, and we are saying very clearly to people in the Church that practising homosexuality is not to be condoned in the priesthood."

He says homosexuals can be ordained, but should live a celibate lifestyle. Challenged by Peter Williams, the series

director, on whether this is not like President Clinton saying he smoked marijuana but did not inhale, Dr Carey insists: "Nothing of the sort. Homosexuals are people loved by God, have gifts to offer, but the discipline of the Church has not changed."

"If people think that we're living in limbo now and the Church can't make up its mind, they've got it absolutely wrong. The discipline of the Church is that we recognise two lifestyles. One is marriage and the other is celibacy, and there can't be anything in

between, and we don't recognise same-sex marriages."

A spokeswoman said Dr Carey was referring specifically to the priesthood, and was not available for comment about the laity. He has previously made strong statements criticising homophobia. On *Desert Island Discs* in 1995 he said he had no intention of overturning the teaching of the Bible, but added: "With that must go listening to men and women today whose experience may be different from ours. The discussion continues."



**Exclusive**

**Floppy Found Dead!**

For the full story turn to page 5.

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# Christian Brothers offer public apology to abused pupils

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE leader of the Christian Brothers, the order that has educated generations of Roman Catholics in Ireland, has apologised to pupils who were abused at school.

Hundreds of former pupils have complained of cruelty and sexual abuse at Christian Brothers schools. Yesterday they received a public apology from Brother Edmund Garvey, speaking in Drogheda, Co Louth, as he was made a freeman of the town where he grew up. Brother Edmund

said: "People have had negative experiences with the Christian Brothers and schools in the past. I cannot deny that, nor do I want to. For those who did have hurtful experiences, I apologise and ask forgiveness."

Brother Edmund told his audience in Drogheda that the order was determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past. He said that the abuse at Christian Brothers schools was characteristic of Irish society at the time. "Our

**Cruelty and sexual abuse in Catholic boys' schools was a reflection of Irish society at the time, a religious order has claimed**

society was in many ways characterised by harshness, by difficulty, at times by cruelty. I think a lot of people suffered it right across society. I'm sorry to say that at times we reflected some of that harshness and cruelty."

The Christian Brothers, founded in 1820 by Ignatius Rice to educate poor Catholics,

were a dominant force in Irish education until the 1960s. The boys-only schools had a reputation for tough discipline. Past pupils include Charles Haughey, the former Taoiseach, Gay Byrne, the broadcaster, and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin.

One former pupil, who attended a Christian Brothers

school in Synge Street, Dublin, in the 1960s, described the harsh regime. "One classmate received 75 slaps of the leather in one day for some minor offence. We recently had a class reunion and his punishment was still the main topic of conversation."

Another former pupil, who attended a school in Newry, Co Down, said that some of the teachers had been sexually abused. "There was a suspicion about one brother who made boys take his hands. Some of the brothers were very violent, while others were

saints who are still revered by their former pupils." A man aged 27 told RTE radio yesterday that he had been raped after school hours by the principal, who looked after him in the evenings while his parents cared for his sick brother.

Brother Edmund's apology is the latest from a senior member of the Catholic Church since evidence began to emerge of widespread sexual and physical abuse by priests. The problem led indirectly to the downfall of Albert Reynolds's Government in

1994: the Labour Party left the coalition after it was disclosed that there had been a seven-month delay by the Attorney-General's office in issuing extradition warrants for a paedophile priest.

The furor prompted the Catholic Church to announce a code of practice to discourage child abuse. In a statement in 1994 the bishops said: "Children and their families have been hurt and betrayed by abusive behaviour on the part of a priest. They deserve an apology which we unservedly offer."

Some priests in Ireland have made out-of-court payments to men who claimed that they were abused as children. The Christian Brothers, which has schools in 26 countries, has paid more than £1 million to former pupils allegedly abused outside Ireland. No compensation has been paid in Ireland, although a number of complaints about abuse are being investigated.

A spokesman said that it was the order's policy to co-operate with the authorities in the investigation of cases and to apologise.

## Folly at the bottom of Prince's garden enrages architects

BY EMMA WILKINS

A CONFERENCE centre to be built at the bottom of the Prince of Wales's garden in Gloucestershire was condemned by leading designers yesterday as "meaningless, banal and depressing".

The Cotswold stone building, where the Prince will hold charity meetings, combines the worst features of an out-of-town supermarket and a parish hall, architectural experts said. Building work on the Orchard Room, which has the floor space of two tennis courts, will begin later this summer after Cotswold District Council granted planning permission.

The single-storey building, 100 yards from the main Palladian house on the Prince's Highgrove estate, was designed by Charles Morris, a chartered surveyor from Norfolk. Mr Morris, who was not trained as an architect, said the Prince had collaborated closely with him during the design stages.

Paul Finch, editor of *The Architects' Journal*, disliked

the building and the ideas behind it. "The unkind description is that it looks like an upmarket Tesco's, although I think that's being unfair to Tesco as some of the things they are doing are quite good."

It is disappointing that the Prince, as a leading public figure, has done very little to promote the best of contemporary design in this country — unlike Prince Albert who did so much. This building is a sort of 'Arts and Crafts' meets parish hall. It's rather depressing."

Graham Cooper, chairman of the Art and Architecture Society, was similarly unimpressed. "This is a banal, depressing design which has more in common with Wimpey homes than anything else. It's a very conservative approach which has not stretched anyone's imagination."

"The Prince and his entourage have entrenched themselves in the past, which shows a sign of lack of confidence. This building

should be much smaller. I can understand why some people think it looks like a supermarket."

The Prince, well known for his views on carbuclines and other modern architectural designs, needs the new building because Highgrove is too small for his official receptions. At present guests are accommodated in marquees in the garden.

Mr Morris was recommended by one of the Prince's architectural advisers. Although he is not a trained architect, he has been designing buildings for 25 years. His previous commissions include work for Rosemary Verey, the garden designer.

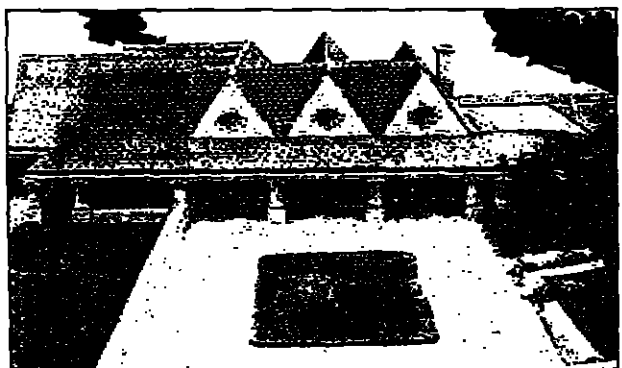
Mr Morris, who started work in December after a meeting with the Prince at Sandringham, defended his design. "We are not trying to create a museum piece. It is a country building with elegance."

The Orchard Room will have room for 80-100 people for dinner and 200 for less formal receptions. It is equipped with a kitchen and a room for exhibitions of the Prince's watercolours. The cost of the building, estimated at more than £1 million, will be met by the Duchy of Cornwall, from which the Prince rents Highgrove. The new addition will put the rent up, a spokeswoman said.

The Arts and Crafts movement began in the late 19th century as a revival of traditional craftsmanship. Exponents used traditional building materials and techniques.



The Prince on a visit to a meat processing factory in Aberdeenshire yesterday



A model of the design, dubbed "an upmarket Tesco's"

## Triad spy Marine faces court martial for shooting a rat

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL Marine corporal who shot a rat while hiding in dense undergrowth to spy on suspected Triads in Hong Kong's New Territories faced a court martial yesterday for endangering the operation.

Corporal Steven Leech told the hearing at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, that he shot the nine-inch rat with his 9mm Browning to protect himself and the three soldiers under his command. Lieutenant Commander Mark Emerson, for the prosecution, said that Corporal Leech, 27, had put the operation, in August last year, at risk.

"Leech deliberately and without regard to the safety of his team discharged a round of ammunition and as such neglected his duties as an operations commander," he said. Corporal Leech was on a four-month deployment with a 45 Commando unit at the Royal Navy base at HMS Tamar in Hong Kong. Their mission was to help break a luxury car smuggling ring organised by the Triads who were shipping the stolen vehicles to China.

The special unit, consisting of Corporal Leech, Marine Philip Harris, a radio operator, and two Gurkhas, was working alongside the Hong Kong police and customs and

excise officials on the secret operation. Lieutenant Commander Emerson said: "Leech turned to the radio operator and told him, 'I'm fed up with the rat and I'm going to take it out', and then he fired his gun."

Corporal Leech, from Hull, denied two charges of neglecting to perform his duties as operations commander and failing to report that he had deliberately discharged one live round of 9mm ammunition. The fact he had shot a rat was removed from the charge after two hours of legal argument.

The court martial continues today.



Corporal Steven Leech: led spying mission

## Jurors recall trauma of murder trial evidence

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JURORS who took part in horrific murder trials will tonight how they were haunted for months by the harrowing evidence they heard.

The men and women, who took part in trials including that of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, and involving the bludgeoning of a toddler and the violent murder of a mother, describe in a BBC documentary how evidence preyed on their minds, saying that it was exacerbated because they were forbidden to talk about what they heard and saw. One tells how all 12 people sobbed in the jury room and comforted one another after returning a guilty verdict.

The jurors, some of the quarter of a million people summoned annually, cast light for the first time on the impact of such trials. In the programme, *Modern Times Jurors*, David, who sat on a five-week trial in which a newly married couple were shot, says of the guilty verdict: "This was the bit they couldn't cope with... we went into the jurors' room again and everybody was sitting there sobbing... we were actually in that room for an hour before we could leave the court."

Jenny, who served for nine days in a case where a defendant was accused of murdering a mother of two by

slashing her throat, said: "I turned up on the first day a happy, confident, level-headed, outgoing sort of person and within about ten days I'd turned into a complete nervous wreck too frightened to open her own front door."

As jurors had to look at forensic science evidence, she added: "That was really when the reality of it all hit me, and I realised that some, someone had really died, that nothing we could do, whatever the outcome was, it wasn't going to bring her back and it really preyed on my mind."

David said: "To actually deal with a murder case and to go through all the emotions

**'Guilty' call is premature**

A juror listening to a drugs case yesterday said to the defendant: "Why don't you plead guilty — you are guilty." The juror, Shane Smyth, 32, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, was brought before Judge Wilkie QC at Luton Crown Court who, before ordering a retrial, told him he had wasted much public money. Mr Smyth told the judge: "The evidence was overwhelming. It was an insult to my intelligence for him to plead not guilty."

At one stage the defendants said they "would find out where our families lived and we'd be sorry, they'd blow their legs off, a few more choice flowery words in between of course but that was quite frightening."

Since the Rosemary West trial in November 1995, the Lord Chancellor's Department has made court welfare officers available to counsel jurors if necessary.

that go with that murder case, it's too much." In the trial jurors had to listen to the tape of the wife trying to speak after she had been shot. "It was like your worst nightmare," he recalled.

Ann, who sat on a case in which a 17-year-old had strangled a three-year-old boy and beaten him to death with a golf club, says: "The judge warned us the night before that we would need to look at photos that would distress us and I did lose sleep over that... it's horrible to have to think that somebody had done that to a child."

Maggie says of the Strangeways Riot trial: "It took over my life. One minute you know I'm mopping the kitchen floor and peeing the washing out and the next day I'm sat in the jury box on one of the largest trials in the North West for years and years."

At one stage the defendants said they "would find out where our families lived and we'd be sorry, they'd blow their legs off, a few more choice flowery words in between of course but that was quite frightening."

Since the Rosemary West trial in November 1995, the Lord Chancellor's Department has made court welfare officers available to counsel jurors if necessary.

## Ministers

Continued from page 1 and he will tell you: he does not support a single currency."

Roger Knapman, government whip, says: "Opposed the treaty of European Union [Maastricht treaty] and voted for a referendum on it which is why no Referendum Party candidate is standing in the constituency. Believes in a Common Market to promote our future prosperity. Will oppose any further erosion of our national sovereignty."

Robbie Lester, the party agent, said: "Unofficially having voted against Maastricht 45 times he would rather resign than support a single currency. He is absolutely opposed. I hope you are not a reporter?"

John Watts, the Transport Minister standing in Reading East, has not yet sent out his election address. But he said last night: "I am totally opposed to a fudged single currency and it's the only one on offer."

"My New Year's message to my association was that this election was the second Battle for Britain. In 1940 we were threatened by a foreign power and now it's the federal tendencies of our partners."

Gwyn Jones, junior Welsh Minister, in his election address says: "I say 'No' to a federal Europe."

There is no mention of his views on a single currency, but privately his office claims he is an original Euro-sceptic and voted against entry to Europe in 1975.

"Draw your own conclusions," said an official.

## Milk packs help hunt for missing children

Fear of examinations was blamed yesterday for a big rise in calls from teenage runaways to the National Missing Persons Helpline. The charity is to put photographs of missing children on milk cartons in an effort to reunite more families. Four-pint cartons sold by Iceland will give details of a different missing child every three weeks. The first is Patrick Warren, 12, from Birmingham, missing with his friend David Graham Spencer since Boxing Day.

The helpline said that children as young as 11 had called saying that they had left home because of school worries. The charity averages 115 calls a day but has been receiving 140 recently. A spokesman said: "The run-up to exams is a time when young people feel under pressure and go missing. We are expecting the figures to keep on going up. The critical ages are 13, 14 and 15."

## 'Poverty' gap widening

One in three children now lives in a home with less than half average income after housing costs, which the Child Poverty Action Group describes as "in poverty". Between 1979 and 1993-94 the number of people falling into that category rose from 5 million (9 per cent of the population) to 13.7 million (25 per cent), including 4.2 million children (32 per cent) up from 1.4 million (10 per cent). In a report yesterday the group said government figures showed that real incomes of the bottom 10 per cent fell by 13 per cent. Average incomes rose by 40 per cent and top 10 per cent incomes rose by 65 per cent.

## Secrecy 'leads to abuse'

A culture of secrecy in care homes is encouraging abuse of children, the elderly and the disabled, according to a report by the whistleblowers' support charity, Public Concern at Work. Calling for a change in the law to protect whistleblowers, the report cites Frank Beck, the Leicestershire child abuser, Beverly Allitt, the nurse who killed babies, and widespread abuse in North Wales children's homes as examples of cases where staff suspected something was wrong but lacked the courage to report their suspicions.

## Insanity no excuse

Insanity is no defence to a charge of drink-driving, the High Court ruled. Two judges said magistrates at Caistor, Lincolnshire, were wrong in law when they acquitted Michael Harper, of Nafferton, East Riding, after hearing that he was suffering from manic depression. He was found by police "talking gibberish" and displaying a "Walter Mitty nature". Overturning the magistrates' decision, the judges said that driving with excess alcohol was a "strict liability" offence, where criminal intent did not have to be proved.

## Nurse pushed general

Debbie Blaize, 21, denied punching a retired major-general who accused her of taking his taxi. She told Southwark Crown Court that she had been at the head of the Victoria station queue when the general had racially abused her and grabbed her round the neck. She had sworn at him and pushed him away, then he fell. Stuart McDonald, a property valuer in the same queue, said that she had behaved "very aggressively and shouted abuse". The nursery nurse denies actual bodily harm and the trial continues.

## Elizabeth is top girl

Elizabeth Choulterton, 17, has become the first head prefect at King Edward's School, Bath, ending four centuries of male domination at the £4,000-a-year day school, which was founded in 1552. Girls were first allowed in the sixth form in 1986. She holds sway over 45 prefects and eight senior prefects at the 660-pupil senior school. The prefects give out punishments to younger children.



## Youth 'killed in revenge'

Danny Westmacott, 16, was stabbed to death after another teenager took revenge for being beaten in a fight in front of girls, a jury at the Old Bailey heard. The catering student died from a single stab wound as he was attacked inside a north London branch of McDonald's. The court was told that the killers singled out their victim in an attack planned almost like an execution. Three teenagers, aged 16, 17 and 19, denied murdering the student in February last year. The case continues.

## Buried in wrong plots

The estranged wife of a gravedigger triggered a council investigation after telling families that their relatives had been buried in the wrong plots. Two women buried in Uphall Cemetery, West Lothian, were laid to rest in the wrong graves between 1990 and 1993, the inquiry found. It has also been claimed that cemetery staff tried to cover up their mistakes by switching headstones. Council officials deny the claim but have offered to exhumate the bodies and bury them in their correct plots.

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**BY KATHRYN KNIGHT**

The jury of eight men and four women was told that Mrs Whiston worked at Heartlands Hospital, moving to East Birmingham Hospital at

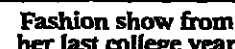
said it is quite easy. Insulin can be absorbed into the blood stream and no-one will know it's been there."

The trial continues.



**BY GRACE BRADBERRY**  
**STYLE EDITOR**

Lagerfeld, now 58, was at a creative peak when he designed for Chloe in the 1970s. He left in 1983, but returned in 1992. In March he announced that he was stepping down to concentrate on his collections for Chanel and his



Sir Paul said: "It is a big job, but I am sure she's more than equal to the task. All of her family are very proud of her."

**Style, page 20**

**By ROBIN YOUNG**

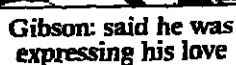
McKenna, of Buckley, was found guilty of making nuisance calls, given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £75 costs.

**BY STEWART TENDLER**  
**CRIME CORRESPONDENT**

Security is currently at a very high level because of the trial of eight men accused of plotting an IRA attack on London's electricity supply, but it appeared yesterday that someone forgot to close the door of the escaper's cell after a legal visit.

**BY RUSSELL JENKINS**

**Gibson: said he was expressing his love**



keep away from Mr Gibson. She didn't think if she complained that anyone would listen." The trial continues.

**BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR**

conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs. The school governors were in emergency session last night after the presiding magistrate said the school should keep

Philip Day, prosecuting for the RSPCA, showed magistrates a video of the area near the back of the school building where the cross-bred bird

for considerably longer than the two weeks of summer holiday before the RSPCA raid.

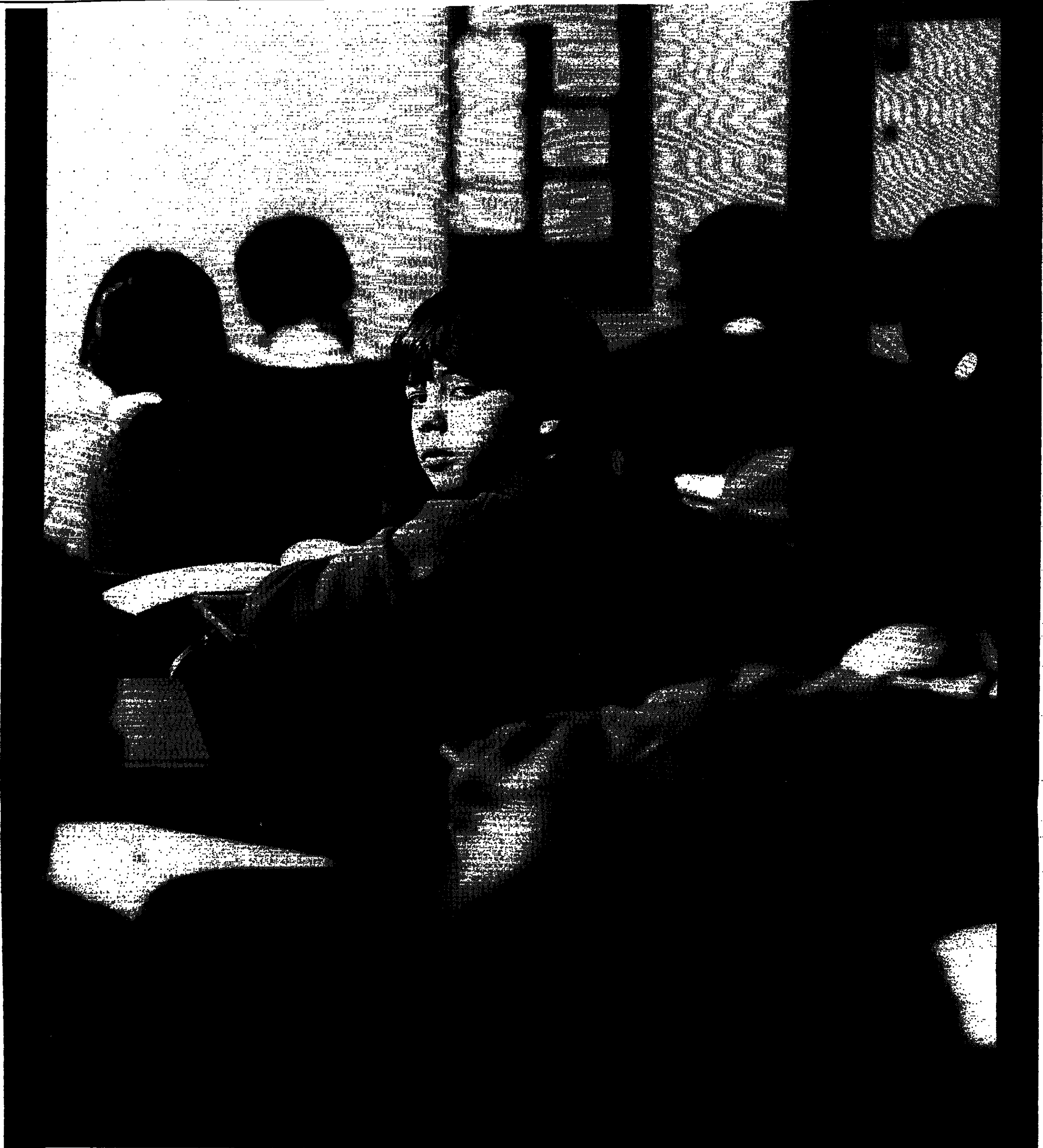
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## THE ENERGY TO BREAK THROUGH

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COMPUTES



# GREAT BRITAIN CURRENTLY RANKS 42ND IN THE WORLD EDUCATION LEAGUE. DISCUSS.

This is the statistic John Major didn't want you to see. The World Education League judges countries on how their education system meets the needs of a competitive economy. It shows that Britain's children are not being educated to the standards of other countries. Currently we lag behind Taiwan, The Philippines and Columbia. Government underfunding has led to teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and thousands of children sharing books. No wonder more than 48,000 children failed to pass a single GCSE exam in 1996. Britain deserves better. If these statistics make you cross, you know where to put that cross on polling day.

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the public service union

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## THE TIMES WEDNESDAY Shy Cantor his eleva Renaissan

By Russell Lee

ERIC CANTOR, the 35-year-old son of a famous American actor, is a shy, unassuming man who has been quietly making his way in the world of film and television. He is the son of Paul Newman, one of the most famous actors of the 20th century. Cantor has been in the industry since he was a child, but he has never been a star. He has been a supporting actor in many films, and he has been a director. He is now a producer. He is a man who has been in the industry for a long time, but he has never been a star. He is a man who has been in the industry for a long time, but he has never been a star. He is a man who has been in the industry for a long time, but he has never been a star.



## Greek heroes did decline to conjugate with the barbarians

By Peter Jones

RACE and sex are hot topics in classical studies. Yesterday the Classics Association conference at St. Holloway College, London, discussed kissing a barbarian. Did ancient Greeks marry with foreigners? Were they like their modern counterparts, this seems a question ancient patriots and feminists would not have asked. The conference was held at St. Holloway College, London. It was a conference about classical studies. It was a conference about classical studies. It was a conference about classical studies.



## Small pay p for er

What happens when your daughter brings her new boyfriend home for the weekend? Does he go in the spare bedroom, or do they sleep together? Find out in Weekend

Saturday in THE TIMES

CORRECTION

Small pay p for er



# Shy Cantona misses his elevation to Renaissance Man

By Russell Jenkins

ERIC CANTONA refused yesterday to be photographed under a giant canvas depicting him as a Christ-like figure. The enigmatic Manchester United footballer was behaving to type as he dodged photographers at the official unveiling of the oil portrait at the Manchester City Art Gallery.

The painting owes much to two works of the Italian Renaissance. Cantona and an array of dozing team-mates are taken from Piero della Francesca's *Resurrection of Christ*, of 1459, showing Christ emerging from the tomb. The background is taken from a painting by Andrea Mantegna showing Julius Caesar's triumphant return to Rome after his foreign victories. In place of Caesar sits Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, on an elaborate chariot, holding a palm as a traditional symbol of victory. Behind him is John Curtis, the youth team coach. As Roman soldiers beneath Cantona are Phil Neville, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Gary Neville.

Whether Cantona was embarrassed to be portrayed as a modern-day Christ, complete with the banner of the Resurrection, or was simply too shy, he was not letting on. He certainly likes the painting, called *The Art of the Game*, by the Manchester artist Michael Browne, 34. He agreed to pose for photographs after meeting the artist at a city centre restaurant; he collaborated on the project and has bought it at a price believed to be between £50,000 to £100,000.

The painting will hang in the City Art Gallery for several weeks before heading for an



Browne: influenced by Renaissance paintings

unknown destination. The artist said it was not destined to be hung at the house Cantona rents from the Chelsea striker Mark Hughes at Prestbury, Cheshire.

Mr Ferguson brought tens of millions of pounds worth of footballing talent with him to the unveiling, but he still had to apologise for the absent Cantona. "Eric did not want to be photographed with it," he said. "He thinks it is a private arrangement and he wants to adhere to that. So you'll have to make do with myself and the other players. I am delighted to be here with my young players, who are slightly embarrassed to see their faces painted in such magnitude."

The artist, who once painted a detail of the Sistine Chapel on the ceiling of a Manchester restaurant, said he was not presenting Cantona as a Christ figure. It was more a comment on the modern nature of heroes.

Browne said the painting was his idea, but he had found Cantona enthusiastic. He took photographs of the player, rather than asking him to

pose. "He said he likes this kind of art. The painting is a way of reflecting heroes of today in the grand way it was done in the past."

Mr Ferguson, looking slightly bemused to have fallen among art critics, suggested that the Resurrection was Cantona's triumphant battle over his dark side after kicking a spectator in the terraces. "I don't feel uncomfortable with it. The guy has dedicated himself for a whole year to do this and I think it is a great job of work. The theme is that supporters can look on footballers as their idols... It is a modern image of football."

Gary Neville, shown on the far right of the group at Cantona's feet, said: "If there is any criticism, people are looking too much into it. It is just a painting."

The Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Christopher Mayfield, said he did not find the painting offensive. "This is a humorous painting which should be taken at face value."



A Christ-like Eric Cantona, surrounded by his manager and team-mates

## Art of flattery has a noble history

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SINCE the time of the Pharaohs, men and women who could never be described as oil paintings have commissioned portraits that flatter their vanity.

Few, however, want anything approaching the deified image of Eric Cantona. Most request only a good likeness and an informal pose. "But they want posterity to remember them at their best," said Daphne Todd, president of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. "Unless you flatter them, they are quite worried by the result. We all see ourselves as 20 years younger than we are."

While Cantona's depiction on canvas is unusual, it is not unique. The actor Stephen Fry had his portrait painted by Maggi Hambling in the image of his hero, Oscar Wilde. Ms Todd, noting how the tradition extended back over centuries, said: "Reynolds did it all the time. It was the vogue for members of the aristocracy to be portrayed as shepherds and goddesses. He had a pattern book. People could choose the scene they wished."

She recalled painting a

scientist who was in her late forties. "She had been a bunny girl and saw herself as a *femme fatale*. She felt that I'd made her look like her mother. I knew her as an academic, but she really wanted to be alluring and desirable."

Elizabeth I would have understood. She insisted that her age never showed in her portraits. Accordingly, her pockmarked face was unblemished on canvas. Oliver Cromwell was different: he ordered that his portrait should not flatter him. The artist was told to include "all these... pimples, warts and everything as you see me; otherwise I never will pay a farthing for it."

People pay an average of £10,000 a portrait, but prices range from £3,000 to more than £30,000. The most outrageous portraits have generally been unsolicited and found little favour with their sitters. The Queen declined Michael Burke's portrait of her and the Queen Mother astride a motorbike, and Edwina Currie was unimpressed by his portrait of her in stockings and suspenders, holding a whip.

## Greek heroes did not decline to conjugate with the barbarians

By Philip Howard

RACE and sex are hot modern topics in classical studies. Yesterday the Classical Association conference at the Royal Holloway College, London, discussed kissing the barbarian.

Did ancient Greeks intermarry with foreigners? If they were like their modern descendants, this seems certain. The ancient patriotic and xenophobic foundation myths are against it, but modern scholarship thinks otherwise.

Greeks colonised southern Italy and Sicily from the 8th century BC, forced west by poverty and overcrowding on their barren homeland. From their graves, archaeologists are now beginning to work out what they were like.

Tamar Hodos of Keble College, Oxford, has been examining the fibulae of brooches used to fasten women's robes in front. And the fibulae — buried with their owners — come from mainland Italy, not Greece. The colonists imported many other crafts from home, but not these brooches. There was an old common market in metalworking be-

tween Italy and Sicily. So the presence of these Italian brooches suggests that Greek men were sleeping with the enemy. In their new world, the colonists found wives and the brooches came with them.

Another old foundation myth has the colonists killing the natives and taking their women. So runs the story of Rome and the Sabine women. But did the founders of Miletus really kill the local men to marry their women? Herodotus said so.

Alan Greaves, from Leeds University, discussed the latest evidence from Turkey. It indicates a strong native presence from the beginning at Miletus. And when Miletus founded its own colonies on the Black Sea, women played a prominent part in the adventure. They were highly valued as colonists. The legendary method of getting wives was not used then.

The war between the sexes was fought 28 centuries ago as now. Underneath the rhetoric and myths, the enemies still jumped into bed together. They still do.

## Small firms pay price for crime

THE high cost of crime is putting at risk the future of many corner shops, restaurants and small factories, a crime prevention group says today (Stewart Tendler writes). Crime Concern estimates that burglary, robbery and violence now cost small businesses £3.2 billion a year. The group's research, based on a survey of 1,000 businesses in Leicester, suggests that small businesses are more at risk than homes and that 75 per cent of small businesses experience crime each year.

A business that had been attacked once could expect four more crimes in that year. Repeated attacks and losses put many at risk, says Crime Concern. Two thirds of small firms were one-man companies, which were very susceptible to market pressures.

### CORRECTION

Silver being sold at Sotheby's in May and June is from the private homes of the Earls of Warwick and not, as a headline wrongly suggested yesterday, from Warwick Castle, owned by the Tussauds Group.



What happens when your daughter brings her new boyfriend home for the weekend? Does he go in the spare bedroom, or do they sleep together? Find out in Weekend

Saturday in THE TIMES

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BECAUSE IT'S

# Girl, 6, puts cancer behind her with reverse leg surgery

BY PAUL WILKINSON

**SURGEONS** have saved the life of a six-year-old girl with a rare operation that involved turning her leg back to front.

Sarah Dowson faced a painful and early death after doctors found a malignant cancer developing in her left thigh. The operation, known as a rotation plasty, involved cutting out the afflicted bone and rebuilding the leg, using the lower part to replace the thigh, and turning the leg through 180 degrees. Her ankle is now her knee and her calf muscle is her thigh.

Doctors fitted an artificial lower limb so that Sarah could walk again: she has already thrown away the stick she used to get about the family home in Peterlee, Co Durham. Janet Dowson, her mother, said yesterday: "She says she wants to be a normal little girl and normal little girls don't use sticks."

She added: "We are amazed by what they have done. If they had not been able to pioneer this surgery it would have meant losing her whole leg and having a big strap-on replacement."

"Sarah has been incredibly brave. Sometimes the courage she has shown amazes me: her outlook on life is always full of hope. She can be an inspiration to other children who are



Sarah: she has thrown away her walking stick

ill because of the way she has coped at such a young age."

The operation, which lasted almost eight hours, was carried out by a team of surgeons led by Joe Pooley at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. Mr Pooley cut away the girl's diseased thigh bone to below her knee, leaving her calf still attached to the nerves and blood vessels above. He then turned the bottom part of the leg so that her foot was facing backwards and grafted it back below the hip so that the ankle was

where the knee should be. Her foot is still in place, tucked into the top of the false lower leg which enables her to move the bottom half of her leg in a normal walking motion.

The operation was performed on August 27 after a series of bone scans, a small operation to determine the size of the tumour, and chemotherapy. Mrs Dowson said: "She is recovering brilliantly, though she still needs regular checks and goes to hospital once a month for X-rays."

"We thought after it was over we would be given the all-clear, but they can't guarantee it won't come back. Some days she gets depressed and says she wants her own leg back, but usually she copes very well."

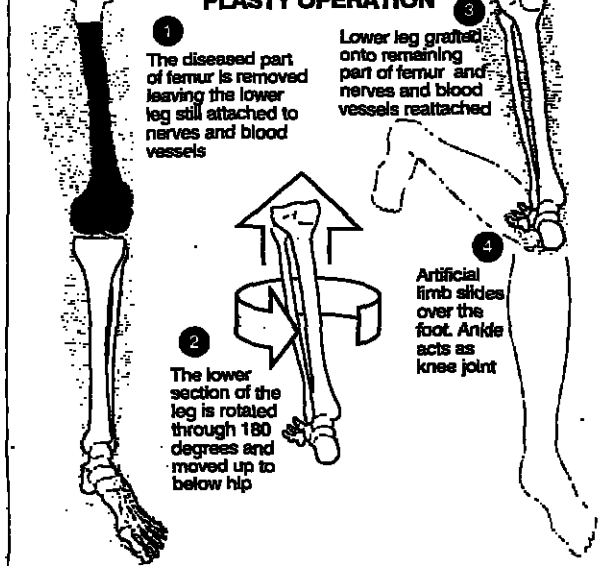
"It is her seventh birthday on Sunday and we are having a big birthday party for her. It has been quite a year for her and quite an ordeal, so it will be a special day because she deserves it."

Mr Pooley said that the rotation technique was rarely used in Britain and that Sarah's tumour was more often seen in people aged between 10 and 20. He said there was only one realistic alternative to the complex operation, which was to amputate her leg at the thigh and replace it with a larger false limb, but that would have meant Sarah having to learn to walk again.

Mr Pooley said: "The good thing about rotation is that patients don't feel as though they have lost a limb. Patients like Sarah are a shining example of what can be achieved with this process. Her family were absolutely brilliant; they have made Sarah feel a very special little girl."

Mrs Dowson, 33, and her husband, Ray, 37, a furniture factory worker, have three other children, Raymond, 13, Rebecca, 12, and Adam, 8. Earlier this year 50 regulars at Buzz nightclub in Hartlepool had a sponsored head shave to raise money for the Sargent Cancer Fund for Children in Sarah's honour, and in August she will be the first mascot at Sunderland Football Club's new stadium.

## THE ROTATION PLASTY OPERATION



Chris Moon waves across the desert in the searing heat. He said: "This shows that the only limits we have are those we put on ourselves"

## Tears of joy for Sahara runner who showed how to win in 283rd place

*A disabled Briton has completed the world's toughest race. Matthew Benns followed his progress across Morocco*

**RUNNERS** resting at the finish line cried when they saw him approaching. Chris Moon, who lost his right arm and leg in a landmine blast two years ago, had completed a 143-mile Sahara marathon.

Every agonising step defied the doctors who told him he would never run again. He carried a Union Jack streaming behind him from his rucksack for the final steps of the world's toughest foot race. The British team captain, Chris Hutchison, said: "What a sight. It brought tears to my eyes."

Mr Moon said: "I was told that it wasn't possible to get this far on a false limb. To me, this shows that the only limits we have are those we put on ourselves."

The former soldier, wounded in Mozambique while mine-clearing, was 283rd out of 343 finishers in the Marathon des Sables, with a total

time of 47 hours, 46 minutes. But as the other exhausted, blistered runners applauded him at the finishing line, his position didn't matter. He had won anyway.

He entered the marathon, in Morocco, to raise £100,000 for an International Committee of the Red Cross false-limb programme in Vietnam. From the start, Mr Moon, 34, said: "Failure is not an option for me. Every step I take helps raise money to help other mine victims and beats my own disability. It also pushes back the barriers of what is possible for people with false limbs."

By day three, in the dune section of the seven-day event, ten of the 388 runners had dropped out. Another five would quit before the finish. Scores more were rehydrated with saline drips and none had a foot without blisters. The dunes were up to 200 metres high and temperatures reached 40C.

Many runners were forced to their knees in despair, the weight of their packs also bringing up blisters on their backs. Mary Gadams, the American who came second

surface is different, and I am having to learn how to walk on it before I can get going. But when you look around you, the desert is beautiful. We ran across a dry lake bed that seemed to shimmer so it looked as though you were just walking into infinity."

In Britain, runners were preparing for the London Marathon, which Mr Moon ran last year. In the Sahara, contestants were getting ready to run the same distance over rocks. Mr Moon's left foot was covered with blisters, and there was one the size of a 50p piece on his stump, which swelled and shrank with the heat.

The former Royal Marine police officer made a joke about a former schoolfriend, the actor Ralph Fiennes: "Look at Ralph Fiennes in

The English Patient when he comes in saying he has walked for three days in the desert. What a wimp — only three days."

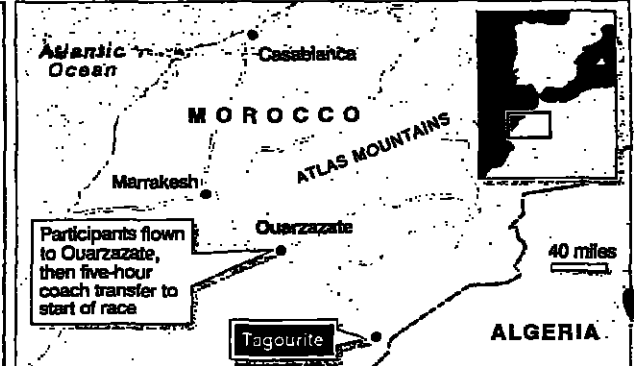
Organiser Patrick Bauer said: "Chris is an extraordinary man. He is running for everyone who has disabilities like him. He is very fit, but he is really doing this race on sheer willpower."

On the seventh and final day, he completed a 13-mile dash to cross the finishing line. The fastest competitor had been Lahcen Ahansal from Morocco, with 17 hours 19 minutes. The fastest Briton was Laurence Williams, of the Royal Engineers, in twenty-sixth place with 23 hours 28 minutes.

Donations can be made through the British Red Cross on 0948 315315.



Mr Moon and the desert heartland of Morocco. The race is centred on Tagourite



## Sheep farmers urged to save endangered grouse

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

**INTENSIVE** sheep farming is pushing the black grouse in England and Wales towards extinction, scientists and conservationists said yesterday as they launched a ten-year scheme to reverse the bird's rapid decline.

Artificial winter feeding of sheep and sharp increases in the numbers of lambs being born on the moors, encouraged by agriculture subsidies, are destroying the heather moorland habitat on which the grouse thrive. Numbers in the Pennines, the birds' last home in England, have halved in the past seven to eight years to around 500 males; the annual decrease is running at 10 per cent.

Sheep farmers and landowners are paid about £25 for every sheep they take off the moor under a so-called agri-environment Moorsland Scheme. But the Ministry of Agriculture pays them nearly 30 per cent more, or up to £35 per sheep, to keep them there.

Dr David Baines, of the Game Conservancy Trust, said: "The percentage of lambs is going up. There is also a lot more feeding of

sheep on the hill in winter. This causes problems. It concentrates sheep into particular areas, usually the edge of the moorland, where the black grouse like to live. And when the sheep have eaten the supplementary food they eat the heather." Black grouse need young, nutritious heather tips to survive.

Under the North Pennine Grouse Recovery Project, the trust, English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, the Ministry of Defence, which owns land in the Pennines used as shooting ranges, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are setting



Black grouse: males are down to 500

up a number of demonstration conservation areas. They are being centred on MoD ranges at Catterick, Omerburn and Wancop, as well as at an RAF range at Spadeadam. Landowners and tenant farmers are to be asked to forgo agricultural payments for sheep in favour of heather conservation grants.

Dr Baines said the first aim was to halt the decline and then double numbers to 1,000 males over ten years. John Barrett, senior conservation officer with English Nature's Northumbria team, said: "The black grouse is a species which is an excellent indicator of habitat quality. Its decline in numbers and distribution in the North of England is a clear indication that not all well with black grouse habitat."

At a press conference yesterday in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, the trust, a charity founded in 1973, launched a recruitment drive aimed at increasing membership from 9,000 to 25,000 by the year 2000.

## Pony joins growing legion of rare breeds

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

A RARE pony found only in the British Isles is being singled out by conservationists to win more public support for breeding programmes to save native livestock from extinction.

The Eriskay pony, originally from the Western Isles, is down to a hundred breeding mares and has joined nearly 60 other types of cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, goats and poultry under the protection of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Lawrence Alderson, director of the trust, said: "It is vital that we maintain the genetic diversity of our domesticated animals. It is a sad fact that many of our native livestock are now rare."

At a press conference yesterday in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, the trust, a charity founded in 1973, launched a recruitment drive aimed at increasing membership from 9,000 to 25,000 by the year 2000.

Since 1900 more than 20 breeds of British farm animals have become extinct.

## Feather test for poachers

**FEATHERS** are being collected from birds of prey to convict poachers who trade in them illegally. The feathers will be used to create a DNA database which can identify whether the birds have been bred in captivity or taken from the wild.

The DNA genetic fingerprint is singular to each bird and can also indicate its parentage, enabling police

and other agencies to determine its origin. Possession of a bird taken in the wild is an offence, but until now suspects can escape prosecution by claiming that the birds were born legally in captivity.

The system, being tested in large areas of upland northern England, will be extended to the rest of the country as soon as possible if it proves successful.

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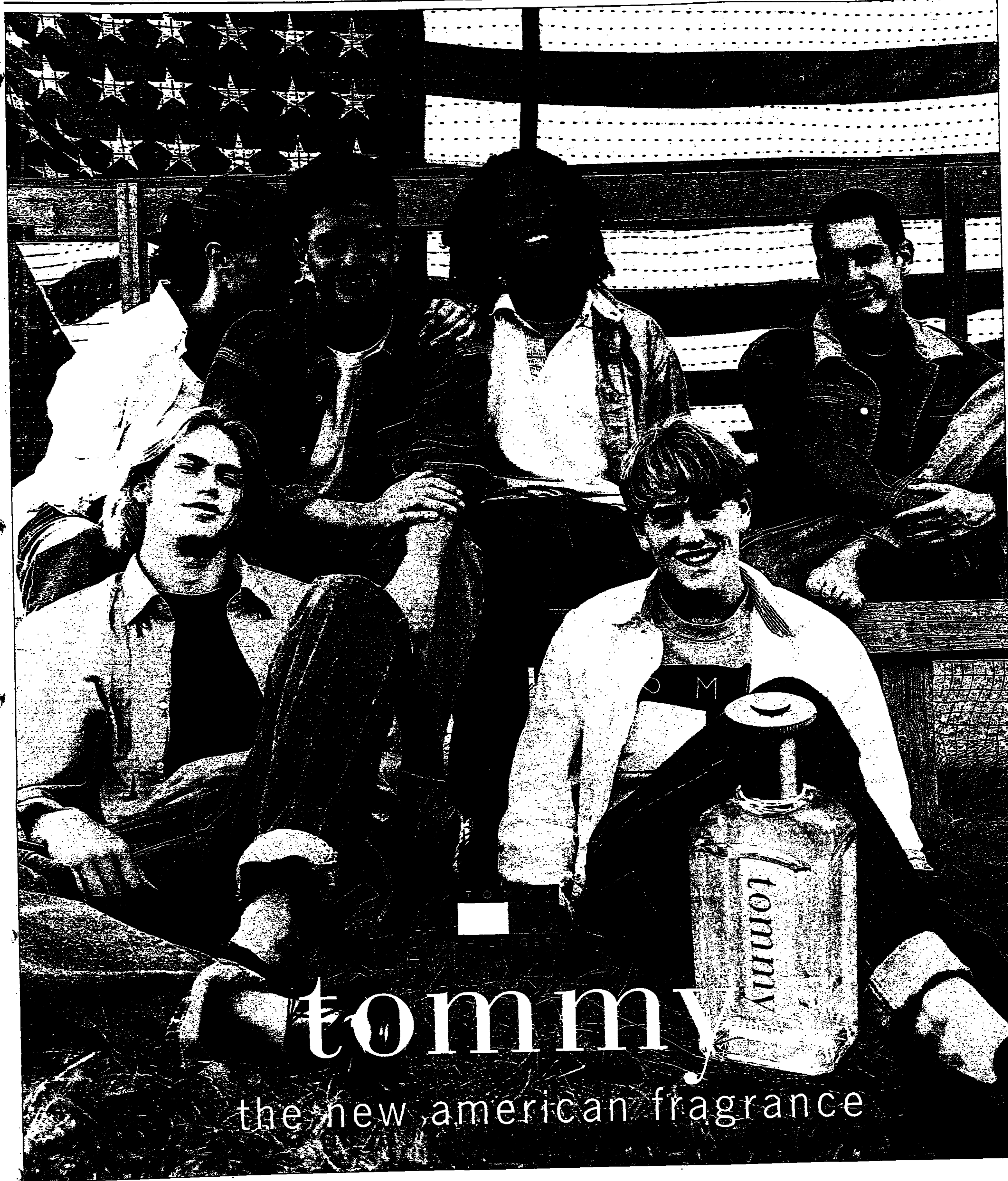
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# Dieting mothers pass on heavy burden to girls

BY IAN MURRAY

MOTHERS who diet make their daughters eat less, researchers have found. A survey of 400 12-year-old girls shows that those who eat fewer meals or snacks have mothers who started dieting from a young age and who have gone on frequent diets since.

Dr Helen Edmunds and Dr Andrew Hill, of Leeds University School of Medicine, asked the state school girls and their mothers to fill out questionnaires about their eating habits. The answers showed that the girls who scored highly on dietary restraint tended to be heavier despite eating less, were more liable to fast and had a lower self-esteem.

They also reported significantly more parental control of their diets, especially where overeating was concerned, than girls who tended to eat what they liked. The mothers of the dieting girls confirmed that they exerted a high degree of control over their children's eating. They admitted, too, that they began dieting when young and continued to do so more frequently than other mothers of a similar weight.

The report, which was presented yesterday to the Third London International Conference on Eating Disorders, says the evidence shows that

parents must recognise their influence on children's diets and must therefore give them sensible advice.

Another study in Arkansas found that adolescents with eating disorders had difficulty with family relationships. "Parents of these patients can also have a difficult time separating their child from the eating disorder and can often come across as blaming and overly critical," the study says.

In another report, the Leeds team asked 314 girls aged just under ten which three classmates they liked most and which ones they felt were most attractive. They found that girls who ate sparingly, but were heavier than their peers, were significantly less popular and were judged to be less attractive than girls who ate what they liked. In two thirds of cases, popular girls were also thought to be attractive.

"These findings highlight the social isolation of girls who tend to be heavier than their peers," the report says.

However, Dr Kelly Vitousek, of the University of Hawaii, told the conference that peer pressure could be a factor. "Fourteen-year-old girls can come to the conclusion that they make more friends, form closer ties with their teacher, achieve higher

grades and more celebrated accomplishments if they skip lunch," she said. Isolated girls were often the most vulnerable to anorexia.

Another study in Melbourne, Australia, found that "fat talk" was a main topic among schoolgirls and increased significantly as they grew older. The girls told the researchers that "body comparison" between them and fashion models was common and led them to consider or initiate dieting.

The quest for perfectionism appears to be one of the driving factors in eating disorders. A study in Vancouver, Canada, found women suffering from anorexia nervosa had far higher standards than normal people or those suffering from other psychiatric conditions. Early identification of perfectionism among young girls might give an early warning of an eating disorder.

Opening the conference, Dr Bryan Lask, of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, questioned the modern fixation with weight and shape. "We can be over-preoccupied with that," he said. "There are three billion women in the world who don't look like models and only eight who do. Yet all the media attention is focused on the eight."



Nicky Welsh, a cystic fibrosis patient, counting up her daily intake of pills with Diana, Princess of Wales, at London's Royal Brompton Hospital yesterday. Mrs Welsh, 29, a keen football supporter, had hoped to ask the Princess for help to obtain Cup Final tickets - but forgot to ask. "My husband and his family are mad Chelsea fans, and I was going to ask if she could get six tickets," she said. "I was concentrating so much on everything else that it slipped

## Patient misses sporting chance on royal visit

my mind. The Princess has a very calming influence, but I must have been concentrating on showing her my wedding photographs. She cuddled me and said I was shaking like a leaf." The Princess agreed to visit the hospital to publicise the plight of cystic fibrosis sufferers. Mrs Welsh is wait-

ing for a heart and lung transplant by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub. In the meantime she has to take 69 tablets a day with two insulin injections and other medicine. Professor Yacoub was unable to meet the Princess as he was delayed in the Royal Brompton's operating theatre.

"He had an extremely complex case," a hospital spokeswoman said. The Princess perched on Mrs Welsh's bed to look at the wedding pictures and set off an alarm. A nurse found that the Princess had sat on the patient's red call button. "If she'd sat on the white one, which is cardiac arrest, everyone would have come running," Mrs Welsh said. Later the Princess visited a children's ward, where she met 12 patients with the inherited disease.

## Family sues over school race abuse

A young girl was so humiliated by racist playground taunts that she put talcum powder on her face to lighten her skin, her mother said. Katie Jarvie, 10, whose father is Afro-Caribbean, said she wished she was dead after enduring 18 months of abuse.

Linda Jarvie, 28, of Muir of Ord, is suing Highland council for £20,000, claiming that teachers at Tarradale primary school did not implement the Race Relations Act and failed to stop the bullying.

## Funeral for Zoe

Zoe Evans, the nine-year-old found murdered near Warminster, Wiltshire, in February, was buried after a funeral service at the town's Minster, attended by hundreds of mourners. Her stepfather, Miles Evans, 23, has been charged with her murder.

## Tarantula legs it

A tarantula the size of an adult's hand has probably died from cold after giving its owner the slip while being exercised in woods at Weymouth, London Zoo said. "Our sympathies should be with the spider. It is unlikely to survive even a short time."

## Re-released

The press release written for Paul McCartney after the murder of John Lennon in 1980 is estimated to fetch £15,000 at Christie's on May 29. The statement, with amendments by McCartney, said: "John was a great man who will be sadly missed by the world."

## Guard dog stolen

A Staffordshire bull terrier bought as a guard dog has been stolen by burglars from a home in Gravesend, Kent. They also took clothes, money and seven-month-old Arnie's lead, but they left behind a television and a video recorder.

## Peacock attack

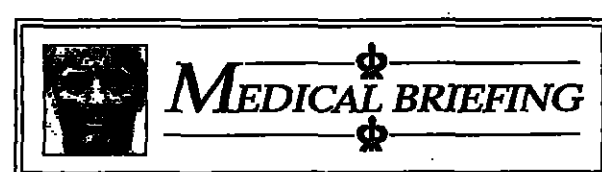
A peacock that attacked a four-year-old boy at a garden centre has been put down. Gregory Beck was pecked by the bird on his forehead and shoulders when visiting Forestry Nurseries at Titchfield, near Fareham, Hampshire, with his parents.

## The problems when a baby is very big news

THE ideal weight for a baby is probably between 7½ and 8½lbs. Too little and they are prone to cardiovascular disease in later life; too heavy and, without a Caesarian delivery, mother and child may both suffer at the birth.

Thanks to modern midwifery, Reece Curson Thompson has been delivered weighing 14½lbs in Consett, Co Durham. He comes from a family of large babies: his elder sister was 9½lb 3oz, his brother 12½lb 3oz and his younger sister 11½lb 3oz.

Once an ultrasound has warned the doctor that a baby is likely to be more than 10½lb or less, in some cases — a



Dr Thomas Stuttford

Caesarian section is usually the preferred option for the mother. Delivery of Reece's head might have been possible, but would probably have resulted in unacceptable lacerations and tears to his mother. Delivering the shoulders can be more tricky. Shoulder dystocia — shoul-

ders jammed in the pelvis — is damaging to the mother and, even if the baby is not asphyxiated, it can result in serious injuries to the child's central or peripheral nervous system. The usual technique to deliver a baby after shoulder dystocia is to put two fingers under each of the baby's armpits,

and then for the doctor to place his or her feet against the end of the bed, to pull with all the weight at their command.

As the baby is delivered its colour, one always prays, will change from purple to pink as it utters a first grateful cry. Too often, however, damage is done to the nerves leading to the arms. In other cases, too vigorous a tug misapplied to the head can dislocate the neck. Shoulder dystocia is a common cause for claims for damages. Unfortunately, even with ultrasound and a CT scan, its likelihood cannot always be predicted.

Having a large baby can be

a warning to the mother that she is at risk of developing diabetes later. The hormonal imbalance which causes babies to be so large as to vie for the record books can be a harbinger of problems with glucose metabolism. Research many years ago suggested that as many as 30 per cent of mothers who had a baby over 10½lb might develop diabetes.

In the past, poorly controlled diabetic mothers tended to produce very large, very unhealthy babies. Fortunately modern treatment makes this hazard unlikely.

Letters, page 23

## Transplants wrong, parents tell court

BY RICHARD DUCE

A MOTHER whose baby son was left brain-damaged after a heart operation would rather die than undergo similar transplant surgery, the High Court was told yesterday.

Linda Poynter, 38, believes transplants to be wrong on religious grounds, and said that she agreed to a new heart for 16-month-old Matthew because doctors at Harefield Hospital pressured her and her husband, Kevin. She said: "Sometimes with 'medical things we do overstep the

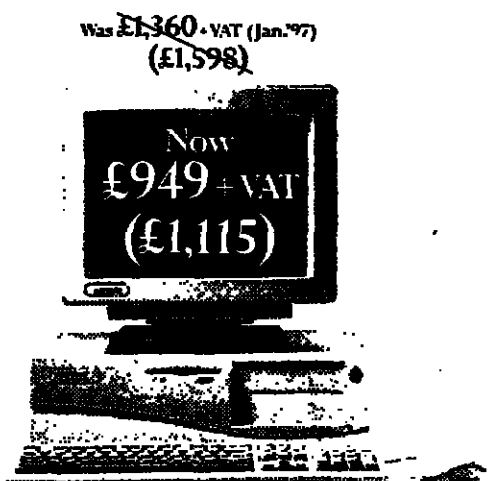
mark. It is the same with sheep-cloning."

The couple, both vegetarians, from Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, are suing Hillingdon Health Authority over the 1987 operation by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub. They said they were not told of the risk of brain damage.

Rosemary Radley-Smith, a consultant cardiologist who treated Matthew, conceded that she gave no such advice, because the possibility was assessed at less than 1 per cent. The risk was now made clear. The case continues.

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## 'New' Clarke babes in favour

THERE was a dramatic familiar glint in Alan Clarke's eyes as, wearing a rakish smile, he made the line for the ambitious young woman standing in the pavement. "Hello, you! I'm Alan Clarke, pleased to meet you. Are you local?"

The true focus of attention, however, was the thirty-something woman who swooned over him. He was a 1950s film star, her twin babies. Off to the Marcella, darling, in the pram. And if there was a room for doubt as to Mr Clarke's intentions yesterday at his side stood his wife Jane, who stuck to him like glue throughout his walk about.

This was New Clarke, reformed character and former politician, on his knees with the voters of Kensington and Chelsea. With his selection as the Tory candidate to replace Nicholas Scott, he has managed a remarkable comeback from retirement, during which he is extremely grateful. He clearly intends to seize the opportunity.



Alan and Jane Clarke indulging in



# ELECTION 97

POLL DAY  
-15

**Paddy Ashdown keeps his feet on the ground**

Matthew Parris - page 13

**Labour's 'least tribal politician'**  
On the campaign trail with Frank Field

- page 10

**In search of the elusive Mr Hogg**

Damien Whitworth - page 11

The sun is out and in a couple of weeks the Tories will be out, Labour leader promises the crowd

## We are going to win, confident Blair announces

By James Landale and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR let his confidence get the better of him yesterday and predicted for the first time that Labour would win the election.

The Labour leader, who styles himself the "eternal warrior against complacency", usually refuses to admit that he is heading for an election victory. He fears that Labour supporters will not bother to vote if they feel the May 1 poll will result in a landslide.

But as Mr Blair arrived yesterday for a walkabout in Crawley, West Sussex, he bluntly told the crowd: "The sun is out and in a couple of weeks the Tories will be out."

Mr Blair's unqualified remarks reflect his increasing confidence as the Tories fail to make much headway in the opinion polls. He is convinced that his new strategy of painting Labour as the only party with a positive agenda will have a strong impact on voters disillusioned with the election campaign.

Mr Blair added: "We have a great country but a lousy government. Never mind all this negative campaigning. These people deserve a better government than the one they have got. If in two weeks' time we get the trust and support of the people, we can win."

During his walkabout, Mr Blair was challenged by two Tory activists who questioned him about Labour's plans for a minimum wage. In another encounter, David Fletcher Packard, 22, a musician, asked: "Tony, what are you going to do about British rock music?" Mr Blair replied: "I will tell you what I am going to do for British rock music. I am never going to play in a band again."

Mr Blair, who was lead singer for a band called the Ugly Rumours at Oxford, then signed a Jimi Hendrix tape cassette with the words: "To Jimi, Tony Blair."

Earlier Mr Blair had been accused by Michael Heseltine of "appalling hypocrisy". The Deputy Prime Minister attacked the Labour leader, insisting that he was trying to deny choice in education while sending his children to the grant-maintained London Oratory school in Fulham.

"I cannot stand the hypocrisy of a man who says he would deny choice in the education system and then opts for choice for his own children," Mr Heseltine said. Mr Blair should have sought action from the Labour councillors who run education in his home area of Islington to improve schools. "When he

had to make that judgment himself [about choice], he could not face the appalling hypocrisy of what he had done. He made a decision that suited himself," Mr Heseltine said. "A man who would do that is not fit to direct the nation's education let alone become Prime Minister."

Mr Blair dismissed Mr Heseltine's attack angrily as a further example of Tory negative campaigning. Speaking during a visit to Brighton, Mr Blair said: "The Tories are getting very, very personalised about it, very abusive. But it is water off a duck's back. The public will make their own judgment. As for their attacks, it is sticks and stones."

He said that the Tories were desperate. "What is important is that we carry on talking to the people about what they want to hear about, schools, hospitals and law and order."

Mr Blair was asked later about Mr Heseltine's attack while holding a question-and-answer session at Brighton University. He said: "My children go to state schools. Most of them (the Tories) send their children to private schools. The school that he (Euan) goes to, he could have gone to at any time in the past 30 years or could in the future under a Labour government."



Tony Blair on a campaign walkabout yesterday in Crawley, West Sussex

## Past record lets Tories count on fairweather friend

By Glen Owen

THE sun is not backing Blair. With the Met Office forecasting a sunny polling day, the Labour Party will not be taking comfort from past links between fine weather and recent election victories for the Conservatives.

The Conservatives associate a low-voter turnout with election victory. Last autumn, John Major was reported to be considering a December election, in the hope that chilly winter weather on polling day would keep people from the booths. But past results suggest otherwise.

In the month running up to the last election, on April 9, 1992, when Mr Major secured a 21-seat majority, 25 per cent less rain fell than usual. The average temperature for the month was 11.7C (53F), 1.5C higher than usual.

In the month before June 11, 1987, conditions were also pleasant, with 25 per cent less rainfall and temperatures holding up to the usual 16.2C (61F). Margaret Thatcher won a 102-seat majority.

Although the run-up to June 9, 1983, was less congenial, with 86 per cent more rain than usual falling, polling day itself was a warm 20C (68F), with 4.5 hours of sunshine. Margaret Thatcher romped home with a 143-seat majority.

The lead up to her first election victory, on May 3, 1979, when she claimed a 43-seat majority, bucked this

mini-trend, after a month in which 54 per cent more rain fell than usual. On the day itself, the average maximum temperature was 10.7C (51.2F), nearly six degrees below the usual for the month.

Bob Worcester, from MORI, detects a trend. "Bad weather on polling day will typically benefit the incumbent Government, unless there is a strong mood for change. Then the weather is irrelevant."

He points to the result on February 28, 1974, the last time Labour formed a government. It came after one of the wettest months on record, with nearly twice the average rainfall. On polling day itself, it was raining over two-thirds of the country.

"Back then, bad weather favoured the Conservatives on polling day because their traditional voters could afford to drive to the booths, while Labour supporters were more likely to have to walk. But this did not apply then because there was a strong desire to remove the Conservatives from power."

Tony Blair will want to look to the example of Thursday, October 15, 1964, when Labour came to power after 13 years of Conservative rule. On polling day, voters were treated to 5.7 hours of sunshine, and unseasonably high temperatures of more than 20C.

Weather, page 28

## 'New' Clark ignores Chelsea babes in favour of their babies

THERE was a dangerously familiar glint in Alan Clark's eyes as, wearing his most rakish smile, he made a beeline for the ample-chested young woman standing on the pavement. "How are you? I'm Alan Clark. Very pleased to meet you. Are you local?"

The true focus of his attention, however, was not the thirtysomething blonde who swooned over him as if he were a 1950s film star, but her twin babies, Olivia and Marcello, gurgling in their pram. And if there was any room for doubt as to Mr Clark's intentions yesterday, at his side stood his wife, Jane, who stuck to him like glue throughout his walkabout.

This was New Clark, reformed character and born-again politician, on the hustings with the voters of Kensington and Chelsea. With his selection as the Tory candidate to replace Sir Nicholas Scott, he has managed a remarkable comeback from retirement, for which he is extremely grateful. He clearly intends to seize the opportunity: no



**Carol Midgley goes walkabout with a guarded Alan Clark in Kensington and Chelsea and sees a "class act" greeted like a national treasure**

frivolity for him during this election campaign. "I am trying to be taken more seriously," he said gravely within minutes of our meeting yesterday (for which he wore the soberest of grey suits and least natty of ties). "I am reducing my profile in a personality sense, although I am out meeting people in the constituency all the time."

Is he now reformed in the philandering sense? "Well, that has been very over-depicted anyway, perhaps because of the diaries. People think I am some kind of sex maniac. I just told the truth."

A ripple of alarm had crossed Mr Clark's face when he was asked if he would mind his photograph

being taken by *The Times*. "Not with you, surely?" he said sharply, seeming to sense a set up. When he was assured that it was not him with female journalist, but him with voters that was required, he relaxed again. "Oh well, yes that's fine," he said.

Interviewing Alan Clark is an unnerving experience: one fears that behind the youthful blue eyes and smile, a razor-like brain is working and, perhaps, lining up a derogatory aside for his next diary. New Clark is exceptionally guarded, but without any real need. On a walkabout in Kensington, he was a class act, greeted like a national treasure, even by Labour voters.

"Ooh, you're Alan Clark

aren't you?" gushed a doting octogenarian blushing like a schoolgirl. "You can have my vote. Lovely."

"You're the one who wrote the diaries, aren't you?" said a man in his fifties. "It's got a green cover hasn't it. My wife bought it but is saving it for her holidays."

Mr Clark, 69, seemed to take care to avoid shaking hands with middle women, preferring pensioners instead, but could not resist the twins. He himself, he explained, has a young grandchild on whom he and Jane dote.

"No way, no way am I voting for you. I've read the diaries," said another woman, adding almost fondly, "but I did enjoy them."

Butchers, estate agents and flower sellers leapt from their posts to shake the hand of the man who called people in his last constituency, Plymouth Sutton, "boring, petty, malign, clumsily conspiratorial and parochial". Many just recognised him as "the man from the telly".

It is a testament to his legendary likeability that during an election campaign dominated by sleaze, a man who admits to having sex with two sisters and whose mother has barely been mentioned, Mr Clark insists on behaving honorably. "I won't say anything about it. I won't ever spill on the girls, despite everything."

The wronged husband, James Harkess, 67, who arrived in London from his home in South Africa last week, says he has no option but to campaign for the Labour candidate in the constituency, Robert Atkinson, claiming Mr Clark is "a man unsuitable for politics".

After visiting the site of proposed new public lavatories and pushing leaflets through a few doors, Mr Clark rolled up at the Home for Distressed Gentlefolk. As he signed the visitor's book, the women receptionists resisted telling him that at his age he was eligible to be a resident himself. They were too busy gazing into his eyes.



Alan and Jane Clark indulging in some "serious" campaigning yesterday

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# Labour pledges to bring scientists back to Britain

Jill Sherman reports on the party's proposed endowment trust

LABOUR promised yesterday to reverse the brain drain by attracting scientists back to Britain through a new trust for science and technology.

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts would be set up on the lines of the National Trust and provide start-up grants in exchange for a proportion of long-term royalties from new products. The aim would be to attract endowments for sci-

tists and inventors from copyrights or patents of their inventions and discoveries.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed to have won the support of leading scientists for Labour's initiative. As proof, it published messages of support from 21 scientists, some of whom had abandoned Britain for better opportunities abroad.

Four scientists appeared in a video endorsing the new

fund. These included Michael Duff, Distinguished Professor of Physics at Texas A & M University, who left Britain after successive Conservative Governments failed to provide adequate support. In response to Labour's proposal, he said: "This is just the sort of fillip that weary British scientists are sorely in need of. It will also help to create the kind of environment that will again make Britain the sort of place

that UK scientists abroad will want to come home to."

The other endorsements came from Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, Dr Mary Harris, director-general of the Year of Engineering Success, and Trevor Baylis, inventor of the clockwork radio.

Education zones: Labour also announced plans yesterday to set up "education action zones" to boost standards in inner city schools.



Scientists, left to right, Trevor Baylis, Dr Mary Harris and Sir Martin Rees back plan to set up science trust

## Gain matches drain as comings and goings make a myth out of theory

THE Labour Party's ambition to reverse the "brain drain" and reinforce the science base cannot be achieved for nothing. Yesterday's announcements were full of declarations of intent but coy about the sources of new finance without which there will be little to tempt British scientists home.

Much depends on the success of the planned National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, which has been promised lottery money. Labour also hopes that successful scientists and in-

**Nigel Hawkes believes that Labour will have to guarantee tenured positions and research support to lure top British scientists home from abroad**

ventors, presumably those who have become rich despite all the obstacles put in their way during the past 18 years, will help to endow it.

Most British scientists who go abroad do so because they are offered jobs and research grants.

Twenty years on and with their most productive years behind them, some may feel like coming home, but it is not because Labour's science policy is essentially any different from that of the Tories. In America, science budgets are also under pressure. The

most recent US budget calls for cuts that have sent shivers through the scientific community. So a Labour government with the right mood music might persuade some scientists to return. But the most successful would need tenured positions and guarantees of research support to take the risk.

Opinions differ over whether the brain drain does much damage. The most recent report, produced by the Science and Engineering Policy Studies Unit in 1993, showed that 447 British scientists

and engineers left between 1984 and 1992. But over the same period, 462 entered the country: 144 were British citizens returning, and the other 318 were immigrants. The report concluded that the emigration rate had not increased: if anything, it may have diminished slightly since the 1970s. The worry was that it was the top quality people who were leaving.

Britain trains more scientists than it can afford to employ in research and then we feel we have failed when they choose to work

elsewhere. Once abroad, they tend to exaggerate the exigencies that drove them there. In reality, as a recent study by Sir Robert May, the Government's chief scientific adviser, showed, British science is still in the top rank. In terms of spending, a subject on which Sir Robert is now preparing a second paper, the record is not so good.

The research budget has been maintained in money terms, if not in real terms, in recent years. There are serious problems over university equipment, much of which is

overdue for replacement, and over career prospects. The same complaints are heard in America.

Over the years, Britain has probably gained at least as much from scientific mobility as it has lost. From Ernest Rutherford — a New Zealander by birth — through the Jewish scientists exiled by the Nazis in the 1930s, to Professor Ploomin and Sir Robert May himself, an Australian who has held chairs at home, in the US and at Oxford, Britain has a substantial brain gain to boast about.

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## Blair should find time for man who can square circles



Frank Field always has new angles on old problems, writes Peter Riddell, and his fresh thinking could get Labour out of some tight corners

FRANK FIELD is Labour's most original and least tribal politician — a Blairite before Tony Blair, though never one of his inner circle, always willing to challenge the party's conventional thinking, almost at the cost of his seat in the 1980s, and respected across party lines and outside Westminster, even by Margaret Thatcher.

If anyone could break out of the bland cynicism of Labour's safety-first national campaign, surely it would be him.

Yesterday as we strolled around the Birkenhead constituency he has represented since 1979 Mr Field was, as ever, full of ideas. He believes, however, that a cautious Labour campaign was necessary. "We could not be elected on any other programme."

His worries are more about what happens after May 1 — about problems no one has even thought about, to say nothing of how to stay within the tight expenditure constraints left by the Tories, and accepted by Labour. He believes a new government will gradually have to build up support for a reformed programme: for example, by a consultative Green Paper exercise on changes to the welfare state before legislation.

Mr Field is forever looking for room for new initiatives. For instance, he wants to use the money saved by switching from student grants to loans to help single mothers into work by expanding childcare facilities. But this would immediately run into Treasury accounting conventions about what must be classified as public expenditure. If Mr Field has his way, some cherished Treasury conventions will have to be challenged.

He is also looking for greater flexibility in the way the welfare state works. For instance, at present, 60 per cent of rents paid on council houses and housing association properties are financed by housing benefits. This discourages people from seeking work. So he would like to increase the flexibility and overlap between those on benefits and work while cracking down on real fraud.

single mothers. Indeed, Mr Field believes that the pupils should only be allowed to leave school when they have achieved certain basic qualifications rather than simply by becoming 16.

It is this unconventional pragmatism which a Labour government will need, given that it is already pledged to operate within tight expenditure constraints. For him, the test of a Labour government in five years' time will be whether it has started to reform the welfare state to link people's self-interest to responsibility and to move from dependency to opportunity.

At the election after next, Mr Field hopes that voters will be able to move from "trust us to trust fulfilled". It is all, he says, up to whether Tony Blair wants to be just prime minister or a great prime minister. Mr Field leaves no one in any doubt that he wants to be part of Mr Blair's team.

Frank Field: always willing to surprise

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## Tory margin of cake for Blair

Lord Archer

IT was not much of a lunch for a multi-millionaire, but just a baked cake and a glass of Coke. But Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 57 yesterday said he was enjoying himself.

No cake, no presents, no hold for the election. Yesterday morning he was in the States working the margins, Tweddle, Entick and the dentale and Roshare. The birthday part of a day tour of Scotland around his main campaign role of organising the rallies for John Major and for Michael Heseltine.

He is as the warren man, working the crowd. For his faithful. He admits, not as bad as the Prime Minister or "Margaret". They are roaming around

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# Farmers tell Major culling begins at home

Alan Hamilton reports that Devon cattlemen refuse to back Tories unless Agriculture Minister is sacked

WHAT the hard-pressed farmers of Devon want is a Hogg cull. Unless John Major can assure them that a future Conservative government will eliminate all traces of Hogg from Britain's farms, they will not vote for it.

Farmers are usually a down-to-earth breed, but when they confronted the Prime Minister in the auction ring of Tavistock cattle market yesterday, they could not bring the name for the ailment to their lips as though it were some taboo, an embarrassing rash. They constantly referred to it by its drawing-room euphemism "the Minister of Agriculture".

Mr Major, like a prevaricating vet who will not tell you straight what is wrong with your cow, dodged the issue, but hinted that he had a cure for Hogg in his medicine bag. A re-elected Tory Government would start with a fresh team and he himself would take a hands-on approach to the Ministry of Agriculture. It was not clear whether this operation would require him to wear a rubber glove up to his elbow.

Tavistock is at the heart of the intensively farmed constituency, the second biggest in England, of Devon West and Torridge, held last time by Emma Nicholson with a 3,800 majority until she was captured by aliens, injected with a Martian strain of mad cow disease and turned into a Liberal Democrat. The Tories have rather smartly replaced her as candidate by importing good Scotch stock. Ian Liddell-Grainger is a bluff Borders beef farmer who knows all about cattle culls.

Even his campaign director, Lord Stockton, grandson of Harold MacMillan, has become a farmer, with 350 acres outside Tavistock. The

Liberal Democrat challenger, a local councillor with no farm, appears to be starting at a serious disadvantage.

Mr Liddell-Grainger was predictably loyal about the Government's handling of the BSE crisis. "I was fairly critical at the time, but I did not see what else we could do to get where we are now."

The local farmers were much less tolerant. Sandy Loud and Ruth Burrow, two local beef and dairy farmers, sported bright yellow T-shirts with the legend "This cow isn't mad, she's bloody livid" on the front and "No more Bull" on the back. Mr Major hugged them warmly. "I have met you before." He certainly had: the two women wore their T-shirts to last year's Tory conference.

"If only we had got rid of Hogg from the start, this crisis would never have happened; he has been hopelessly weak in Europe. They must get rid of Hogg and be strong in Europe," Mrs Loud said. Mrs Burrow added: "Put somebody in the Min of Ag who understands farmers; Hogg is a lawyer for heaven's sake."

The women told Mr Major that the beef industry would suffer for at least the next eight years. "Get rid of Hogg and I think the Conservatives can win back the farming vote," Mrs Burrow said.

John Dawe, local branch chairman of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), was another who was blunt with Mr Major. "I made it clear that I would not vote Tory if I had the slightest suspicion that man was going back as Agriculture Minister," Richard Haddock, vice-chairman of the Devon NFU, told the Prime Minister that lowland beef was the one sector of farming still not properly



The Prime Minister meets children at Erme County Primary School in Ivybridge, Devon, yesterday

subsidised and that if the Government did not do something about it pretty damn quick, 5,000 farmers would go bankrupt.

Mr Major made all the right soothing noises, as though trying to calm a panicky heifer. "I do not believe there was ever a justification for the banning of British beef across Europe; there was panic." Britain had honoured its side of the BSE elimination agreement with Europe. Now it was time for other European countries to introduce beef hygiene controls as tough as those in Britain, he added. That went down particularly well.

The questioning turned technical. Would Mr Major

commit himself to laying his hands on the £200 million in the European Union kitty earmarked for ironing out adjustments in the green pound? Mr Major would not commit himself; green pound expertise is not always immediately to hand at 3 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon.

The one way for Mr Major to ensure the votes of the Tavistock farmers would be to say that he intended to appoint Angela Browning, Mr Blobby, Dr Frankenstein or indeed anyone else as Agriculture Minister. After May 1, of course, a Hogg cull may prove unnecessary. Mother nature often has her own way of dealing with troublesome ailments.

## Leaders score badly in Spice Girls quiz

JOHN MAJOR elegantly batted away tricky questions on the single currency, unemployment and the Tories' electoral prospects yesterday, but was clearly bowled by the nightmare poser for any politician keen to enhance his street credibility: name the Spice Girls (Arthur Leathley writes).

The Prime Minister was challenged to better Tony Blair's attempt to put names to the five members of the all-girl band that has swept Britain and America.

Mr Blair was ridiculed when he was able to name only three of the quintet, but Mr Major failed to hit even such modest heights, proffering the names of just two of the singers, Mel and Geri. He was unable to specify which of the duo of Mels, B or C, he was referring to.

The Prime Minister was hit with the googly at the end of an interview with journalists in Plymouth. In vain he had he appealed to his interrogator to ask him questions about opera.

## Damian Whitworth trots after one little Hogg who never got to market

LIKE so many of the cows which must trouble his dreams at night, Douglas Hogg did not make it to market yesterday.

The Agriculture Minister, who has been notably absent from the general election limelight, was due to make his debut on the national campaign stage. In the event, the whole thing was something of a pig's ear.

Amid the continuing fallout from the BSE crisis it has clearly been the view of Conservative Central Office that this Hogg would not wash with the voters and he has been kept firmly out of sight. He has been among the band of Cabinet ministers who have not appeared at any of the morning Westminster press conferences; nor is it planned that he should do so.

But yesterday, after John Major's decision to go face to face with the fishermen of Cornwall, it was billed that Mr Hogg would be squaring up to his nemesis. Midlands press spokesmen said that Mr Hogg would be visiting a Staffordshire market. However, while Mr Major went into the lions' den and found that most of the lions were out fishing, Mr Hogg, who has recovered enough from an injured ankle to cast off his crutches, poked his head into the lair and quickly pulled it out again.

In one respect poor Mr Hogg was blameless. The market in Cannock does not trade in livestock and although the area, which was once busy with mining, has much agriculture, it is uncertain how many sons of the soil he would have encountered. But Mr Hogg would not have discovered that because he did not discover the market.

If this does not rank as the shortest town centre walkabout of 1997 it will be intriguing to see which fleet-footed candidate beats him.

Mr Hogg emerged from the Cannock Unionist Club and set off with the local candidate, John Backhouse, at a brisk trot.

His first encounter with the public was with a couple quietly tucking into a picnic on a patch of grass. "How are you today?" asked the minister. The couple, mouths full of sandwiches, grimaced and shooed him away. "Lovely to meet you," Mr Hogg said and scampered on into the shopping centre.

"Hello, nice to meet you," he chirped. "I am not your candidate," he added hurriedly. "This is your local Conservative candidate, John Backhouse," he told shoppers.

To his credit, however many people told him to go away Mr Hogg was irrepressibly cheerful and eventually was rewarded with an encounter with some supporters. At last he could pause for breath before heading off again, skipping quickly past a butcher's (to the disappointment of photographers), round the corner and... back to the Unionist Club where the regulars were barely half way through the pints they had started when he left ten minutes earlier.



Hogg: back among his friends in record time

## Tory marginals a piece of cake for birthday boy

Lord Archer loves elections, writes Gillian Bowditch

IT was not much of a birthday lunch for a multi-millionaire, just a baked potato with cheese washed down by a glass of Coke. But Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 57 yesterday, said he was enjoying himself enormously.

No cards, no presents, no cake: everything has been put on hold for the election. Yesterday morning found him in the Scottish Borders working the marginal seats of Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale and Roxburgh and Berwickshire, part of a three-day tour of Scotland fitted around his main campaign role of organising the eight rallies for John Major and six for Michael Heseltine.

He acts as the warm-up man, working the crowd of Tory faithful. He admits to nerves beforehand, although not as bad as the Prime Minister or "Margaret". "They are roaming around,



Archer, 57 yesterday, campaigns in Scotland

fidgiting, getting nervous every time," he says.

But for such a veteran of the campaign trail, (this is his tenth election), he must feel he has been fobbed off with a job which under-utilises his skills

as a publicist and front-man. "Everyone knows I wanted to be party chairman. That's no secret but we've got a chairman and that's the end of that discussion," he says.

It seems a far cry from the days when he played a central role in Conservative affairs, indulged by the party faithful and loathed by some who felt he was a loose cannon.

So why does he keep doing it? The answer is obvious as we step into the bright sunshine of Galashiels shopping centre. He loves it. He shakes hands with everyone before thrusting Alister Jack, the local candidate forward.

"Jeffrey Archer, pleased to meet you," he says. The response is remarkable. They are all delighted to meet him. Autographs are requested, visiting foreigners promise to vote for him. The town's traffic warden stops for a chat, even the local Labour councillor pats him on the back.

"It's a drug," he says. "There is nothing like an election. I love it and when I stop loving it I will stop doing it."

"I don't have to do this. I could just keep writing books, but I don't think you should be a politician if you don't enjoy meeting people, although lots of them hate it."

Local party chairman Charles Barr-Sim says of Lord Archer: "I've learnt so much from him already, just following him around. I don't know what his secret is. I think he just likes meeting people. If I had him here for three weeks, we'd have the seat in the bag."

At the Conservative club in Galashiels four middle-aged ladies are stuffing envelopes. "Why don't you get out of the Lords, and become Prime Minister where you belong?" one of the ladies says, as Lord Archer beams. Not such a bad birthday after all.

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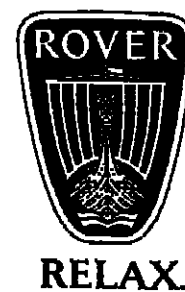


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# Ashdown meets the old to speak of the young

FROM the green fields of North Cornwall, flashes of orange and gold catch the eye. The gorse and the Liberal Democrat posters make a delightful show at this time of year. No other flowers, political or horticultural, seem to flourish, and the Liberal Democrat candidate, Paul Tyler, looks secure. But this did not prevent Paddy Ashdown dropping in on him yesterday, just in case.

Mr Ashdown was scheduled to press the flesh outside Bude's curiously crenellated town hall after lunch. Waiting for the occasion was a poster lorry displaying a huge billboard picturing three children and posing the question "Which party will spend more on education?" One boy wore a blue rosette, one a red rosette, and the rosette of the third was gold. The gold boy was smiling. The driver, flag end hanging from his lip, was scowling. The Liberal Democrat battle bus was late. Devon lanes are narrow, the bus a vast yellow double-decker. So Mr Ashdown went on ahead, with Mr Tyler, in a black Jaguar.

The theme of the afternoon was to be *Our Children's Future*.

Do you remember Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*? The press baron, Lord Copper, ready to present a journalist whom he supposes to be young with an award, has drafted his entire



Matthew Parris follows the Liberal leader as he presses the flesh in the safe territory of North Cornwall

speech on a single theme: "The opportunities of youth."

Lord Copper's heart sinks as the award winner appears, just before the speech is to begin. The journalist is in his seventies. Thus must Mr Ashdown's heart have sunk as, emerging from his car to a backdrop of colourful posters about education, his few well chosen words about Liberal Democrat plans for the young memorised, he was confronted by his audience. They were a small crowd of very old ladies, sprinkled with a handful of very old gentlemen. White perms quivered in the breeze. Sticks tapped the grass, his heart sank. "Hiyah!" he exclaimed, for all the world overjoyed to see them.

But wait! There by the gate was a group of younger people — rather smart: the tweed cap and green wellie brigade. Paddy lurched towards them in relief. The relief was short-lived. They were a delegation from the British Field Sports Society,

come to tackle him on Lib Dem evasions over hunting.

But this is where Mr Ashdown shines. Unlike other opposition leaders, Mr Ashdown had not arranged for minders to assess the crowd in advance, identify the trained poodles, push away people with awkward questions and shepherd their man towards the poodles. Now, confronted with the awkward questions, he did not, unlike other opposition leaders, scamper away to the poodles. He listened to his critics, then gave as good an account of his party's policy (or lack of one) as he could muster. They listened to him politely and with growing respect. He left them impressed. Then he steered his older ladies — who had been joined, mercifully, by a single babe-in-arms — towards a boat repair yard, where others were waiting.

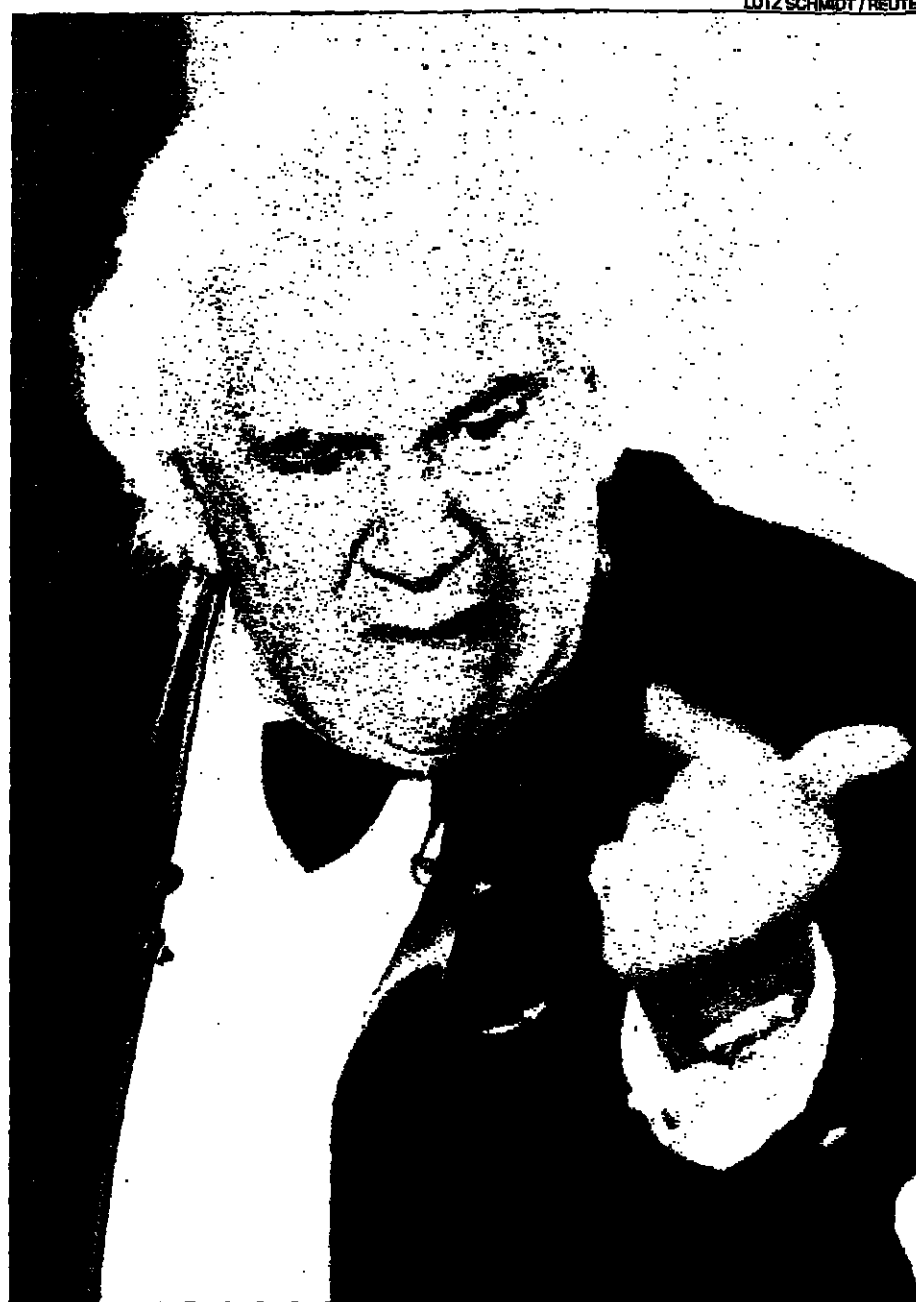
"What's wrong with this boat?" he breezed to a craftsman. "It sunk in a storm," the fellow replied. Mr Tyler looked worriedly at me, con-

scious of a sketchwriter's poisonous metaphor. But Mr Ashdown made a good, old-fashioned speech to his fans, during which Mr Tyler was spontaneously cheered when his leader mentioned his expertise on agriculture. Mr Ashdown posed with the baby, and departed. What with Mr Tyler's clipped 1950s Pathé News voice, the whole scene could have come from another political era.

Mr Ashdown's next encounter was better suited to his theme. He entered a children's adventure training centre and pulled on a rope designed to haul kids wearing crash helmets up a climbing frame. Journalists challenged him to don a helmet and give it a try. You could see the adventurer in Mr Ashdown straining to accept the challenge. Sadly, the politician in him, envisaging the captions should he fall, won the tussle. He stayed on the ground.

Then we watched more boys in crash helmets climbing up a wall. The Liberal Democrat leader was introduced to a would-be climber. "Good Luck, Brian!" he called as the boy began his ascent.

"Thanks," called the child. "And it's not Brian, it's Ryan." A boy who, half way up a vertical wall and clinging on for dear life, can correct the leader of a great political party as brusquely as Ryan did will go far.



Sir Peter Ustinov is taking an active part in the Lib Dem election campaign

## Ustinov pledges to play lead role

By Polly Newton

THE Liberal Democrats will wheel out backers from the world of entertainment this week in a show of support of the kind that is more usually associated with new Labour.

The parade begins today with a joint appearance in London by Paddy Ashdown and John Cleese, a well-known Lib Dem voter who has appeared in the party's election broadcasts.

A lifelong Labour voter, television comedian Barry Took, will tonight chair a Liberal Democrat debate in Bath. He said: "(Tony) Blair and his crowd are good but Charles Kennedy and Paddy Ashdown are part of a young, energetic party that is honest and caring. If I didn't live in Westminster and have to vote tactically to get those Conservative buggers out then I would definitely back them."

Tomorrow afternoon Sir Peter Ustinov, the actor, will appear alongside Baroness (Shirley) Williams to discuss political issues in front of an audience at Church House in London, where the Lib Dems hold their daily 8am press conferences. This is the first time that Sir Peter, a long-time supporter of the party, is taking such an active part in an election campaign.

## Nameless people's champion addresses nation from on high

LAST night Sir James Goldsmith addressed the nation in the first Referendum Party broadcast. It is a mark of his arrogance that nowhere was he identified. We were, presumably, expected to recognise his features: the balding head, the freckles burnt under a non-English sun, his wild eyes peering from under a troubled brow.

His message, unlike the intervention of Ross Perot in the last two US presidential races, was simple. As he put it:

### TV WATCH

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

"The real issue is whether Britain remains an independent and free nation or whether it becomes a province of an undemocratic European superstate." And the culprit is the same demon that Sir James has always been fighting, from his founding of the weekly magazine *Now* to his legal assault upon *Private Eye*

— an unrepresentative clique who dominate the political class of Britain.

Who, he asks, are these people who lead us blindly into servitude? His answer: "the political, bureaucratic and media establishment". The whole world, it seems, is against Sir James and his rabble army, a chief under-

able being Edward Heath, who encouraged us to believe that the European adventure would not entail a surrender of Britain's sovereignty. The federal agenda of the Maastricht summit was not an issue in the 1992 election. And "secretly and without our consent our nation is disappearing into a European superstate with one parliament, one currency, one flag".

The Tories have cornered the market in paranoia so far, claiming in their first broad-

cast that Britain is on the edge of apocalypse with the arrival of a Blair government. But Goldsmith goes one further. Unless we vote Referendum we will be selling our country down the river for ever. Parliament and the courts and the Bank of England will be gone. This is our last chance to smell the sweet scent of freedom. It is an eccentric, serious-minded attempt to appeal over the heads of the conventional parties to the romantic view of Britain's voters.

But Sir James, the fattest of fat cats, ennobled by Harold Wilson in his infamous "lavender honours list", who lives mostly in France, is not the best spokesman for such a crusade. The Referendum Party therefore adopts an odd position: it appeals from on high to the British revolution at being directed from on high. The whiff of the international jet-set cocktail party which follows the Referendum Party, packed with friends of friends of Sir James, further diminish-

es its claim to be a grass-roots movement which speaks for the British people.

The Labour Party also made a patriotic appeal last night in its broadcast, introducing the now famous Fitz the Dog, a grumpy bulldog which is reluctant to be taken for a walk. After a few well chosen words from Tony Blair the dog rouses itself and is soon champing at the bit, eventually snapping its lead to set off in its own direction — across a dusty desert landscape to an

unknown horizon. This is undoubtedly Thatcher territory. The British bulldog, after years of being domesticated, will be let off its leash to roam the world, looking for a scrap. Labour, once the party of CND, has, like the subtitle of Stanley Kubrick's *Dr Strangelove*, learned to stop worrying and love the bomb. So the Tories are deprived of another unique selling proposition and Sir James is left wishing he had thought of a better mascot.

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No wrench for spanner in the Conservative works as she breaks consensus over single currency

## Voters are unmoved by Tory dame's Euro turn

DAME Angela Rumbold, a Conservative vice-chairman and the latest spanner in the Tory Euro-works, was busy performing the doctrinal splits over the euro yesterday. Not that her constituents noticed. Striding through the sunny streets of Mitcham and Morden, her seat for the past 15 years, Dame Angela, 65, was having it both ways. "I fully support the Government's position with regard to the single currency," she insisted in a formal statement. But there was a catch: "I cannot see myself supporting the erosion of sovereignty that would come from scrapping the pound."

This thinking had just handed a gift to the Opposition. Tony Blair ridiculed the disarray in Tory ranks. Paddy Ashdown said Dame Angela had signalled "the beginning of the break-up of the Conservative Party" because of her rank in the party machine and her job in charge of the candidate lists for the election. Emma Nicholson, a former Tory colleague now with the Lib Dems, called her "a loose cannon on the deck of a sinking ship".

Slightly intimidating in a pistachio-coloured suit that set off her short red hair, Dame Angela had only one word for such stuff as she marched up a suburban street: "Sheer nonsense —



Dame Angela Rumbold knew exactly what she was doing when she decided to thrust aside the Cabinet's wait-and-see Euro-policy, Charles Bremner writes

nonsense is the word that will do very well."

According to Dame Angela's entourage, the fuss was just media mischief, but there was no doubt that Dame Angela, a straight-speaker and possessor of a sharp mind, knew exactly what she was doing when she decided to thrust aside the veil of ambiguity with which the Cabinet has draped its Euro-policy and say clearly what many a Conservative believes. She wanted, she said, to answer the anxiety that voters voiced on the single currency when she knocked on doors.

Surely there was some contradiction with the Government's delicately ecumenical policy of wait-and-see? "I'm not going to say anything because if I say anything it's ridiculous," Dame Angela snapped as she marched ahead with her "important business".

This consisted of ringing on doorbells up and down Queen Mary Avenue, a quiet

street of modest semi-detached houses, much improved by a sea of cherry blossom. The Conservative is in danger of losing the seat, one of the most marginal, to Siobhain McDonagh, 36, a councillor.

Few constituents were around to take the mid-afternoon call from the Tory Dame, who was accompanied by Polly Postans, her daughter who is also her electoral agent, and Sophie, her granddaughter. Her only mistake, after receiving near universal promises of support, was to greet the same pair of old women twice. "But you've just spoken to us," one complained.

She met only one timid query about her European views. She explained that she wanted to safeguard Britain's sovereignty. Among the voters of Morden, there was little apparent interest in Dame Angela's shocking shift from wait-and-see over the euro and her part in what one

newspaper proclaimed yesterday to be the biggest battle for Britain's survival since Hitler was defeated.

Over in Morden, there was sympathy for the politician. "Poor old Dame Angela. She's just trying to hold on to her seat," said Kevin Fleming, proprietor of a Morden plumbing shop, referring to her majority of 1,734. Doing her shopping, Phyllis Sinden, 85, said Dame Angela "says all the right things. I think the Conservatives know how to handle the foreigners."

A protégée of Nicholas Ridley, who served in three junior ministerial posts, she has blotted her copybook before, notably in 1994 when she had to resign from a £12,000-a-year job with a lobbying firm and in 1995 when she acknowledged that she had failed to disclose a shareholding in an investment fund.

Made a Dame in 1992, she was put in charge of the Conservative candidate list in 1994, and proclaimed her aim to be purging the "identikit apparatchiks" which had dominated it and recruiting more women. However critics say her ambition has been signally unfulfilled. Emma Nicholson, sniped at her yesterday, saying her former colleague "is the woman who has stopped the advance of women candidates".



Dame Angela campaigning in her Mitcham and Morden constituency

## Major refused to join the Right

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR yesterday said he had resisted demands that the Tories should take a more right-wing or Eurosceptic stance in the election. He said: "People will have to accept me for what I am."

As increasing numbers of backbench MPs voice their opposition to Mr Major's "wait and see" policy on a single currency, the Prime Minister was asked whether a right-wing or Eurosceptic ticket might have proved more popular. "I have always been told over the last few years that if I was able to do this or able to do that, the world would turn on its head. But I am not prepared to turn on my head," he said.

Mr Major said that responsibility for the party's electoral fortunes rested with him. "I have set out my policy. It is what I believe in and people will have to accept me for what I believe, what I do and the way I do it, or reject me."

The prime minister said that he now felt able to return to his original objective, set out when he first became Tory leader, of achieving a "classless society". "It is perfectly true to say I feel liberated in that sense. I can now address the social agenda. That is what I have always cared about and lay behind what I said about a classless society."

He denied that recent speeches calling for greater help for the poor showed a sudden conversion. Yesterday he answered claims that he was searching desperately for centre-ground votes, saying that the Tory party had always believed in social change. He blamed the recession for preventing some of the social changes he had hoped to introduce.

"It has been very difficult to connect personally with the media and with the public as a whole upon those issues. But I think that it is now possible to do."

## Leaders vie for place as fishing industry's true defender

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE Government and the Opposition vied to outdo each other in support for the fishing industry and determination to stand up to Europe yesterday after Britain was forced to accept a decision to reduce catches by up to 30 per cent.

Ministers said the vote in Luxembourg was irrelevant because there was no question of implementing the reductions until British-registered, but foreign-owned trawlers, or "quota-hoppers", were banned

from catching British fish. On the hustings in Devon, John Major said he did not have "a shred of intention of cutting the British catch unless and until we have a satisfactory agreement on quota-hopping".

The Prime Minister was asked if a Tory government would be prepared to veto further constitutional changes in the European Union at the inter-governmental conference (IGC) in June if Britain did not get its way over quota-hoppers. "You can use the word veto," he said. "I am saying we will not reach an

agreement. There has to be an agreement by unanimity with every nation in the IGC."

Mr Major said the Luxembourg decision showed how "utterly wrong" Labour and the Liberal Democrats were to support an extension of qualified majority voting in the EU. "What happened today, which we will resist, could happen in a whole series of other areas if they scrap the veto," he said.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, on the campaign trail in Brighton, said: "This is yet another failure. First it

was beef, now fish. They talk tough but they get nothing done because they are hopelessly divided. A Labour government will get a better deal for the British fishing industry. In my view Mickey Mouse would get a better deal than this lot."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, claiming to be the only party leader to have been on a trawler, said: "The right way to approach all this is to scrap the common fisheries policy altogether and to deal with these issues with an urgent review of fisheries policy."

The Prime Minister has decided on bluster for the purposes of the election. We all know what will happen if he is re-elected — he will back down."

In Luxembourg Britain was outvoted by 13 votes to two, with only France on its side. The deal went through under the EU's qualified majority voting system, which is now used for much routine EU business.

Under the Luxembourg deal, it will be left up to individual members states to decide how to achieve

the catch cuts — 30 per cent for severely depleted stocks, such as cod and haddock, and 20 per cent for others under less pressure.

The reductions must be achieved within five years either by scrapping vessels, with the aid of grants, or by limiting the number of days during the year that boats can spend at sea, or by a combination of both.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, said the 160 foreign-owned fishing boats on the British register alone accounted for a quarter of the British fish catch.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

# What t

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The Times...  
quotations...  
Labour Party

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...I will not vote to abolish the pound."

67 **Marion Roe, Broxbourne:** "I oppose the single currency."

68 **Graham Riddick, Colne Valley:** "I will do whatever I can to stop the abolition of the pound and its replacement by a single European currency."

69 **Laurence Robertson, Tewkesbury:** "I have said I will vote against a single European currency. I would like to see a full referendum on Britain's wider relationship with Europe and I would like to repatriate powers to Britain."

70 **Dr Adrian Rogers, Exeter:** "Adrian Rogers will never vote for a single currency."

71 **David Ruffley, Bury St Edmunds:** "He is not persuaded that it is in the United Kingdom's interest to join a single currency."

72 **Danica Aarne, Rumbold, Mithcam & Morden (vice-chairman of the Conservative Party):** "I won't vote for it and I would certainly be calling for a no-vote."

73 **Mr C2 Newsnight, April 14 1997.**

74 **Tom Saville, Bolton West (Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Health):** "I do not believe that a single currency would be in Britain's best interests from an economic or political point of view; neither now or for the foreseeable future."

75 **Jonathan Sayeed, Mid-Bedfordshire:** "In the 1970s I voted to join a Common Market not for the pound but for the future."

76 **David Senior, Luton North:** "David Senior... has pledged to keep the Pound."

77 **Stephen Shakespeare, Colchester:** "I believe that a single European currency would be bad for Britain."

78 **David Shaw, Dover:** "I shall listen very carefully to all the arguments about the single currency and then I shall vote against it."

79 **Donald Stewart, Brigg and Goole:** "I am totally against the single currency."

80 **Sir Peter Tapsell, Louth & Horncastle:** "I give you this pledge - I shall never vote to join a single European Currency."

81 **Donald Thompson, Calder Valley:** "Donald Thompson believes in a strong European trading area, but cannot foresee a single currency with Britain as a member."

82 **John Todman, Cheltenham:** "I want to see the right to set our own currency and that means 'no' to a single currency."

83 **Ian Twinn, Edmonton:** "I am strongly opposed to the Single Currency. I will vote against a Single Currency in the referendum we have pledged in the House of Commons."

84 **Bob Wigdala, Bury:** "I am opposed to a single currency."

85 **Michael Winstanley, Macclesfield:** "I oppose a single currency and a federal Europe... I would support a referendum on Britain's future relationship with Europe."

86 **Walter Sweeney, Vale of Glamorgan MP:** "Walter Sweeney has consistently said YES to a free trade area, but NO to the Social Chapter, NO to a single currency..."

87 **Davies, Montgomeryshire:** "I will oppose the abolition of the British pound within the life of the next Parliament... I stand for a Europe of independent nations and will say 'No' to abolishing the British currency."

88 **Bill Cash, Stone:** "I will not vote for a single currency or the Social Chapter."

89 **David Headcoat-Amory, Wells:** "He opposes further integration in the European Union and believes the Government should rule out joining a single European currency."

90 **John Aveland:** "I believe in the British controlling their own destiny and believe it is important to maintain sterling and will vote against any proposal for a single European currency in the referendum."

91 **Nigel Waterson, Eastbourne:** "I am strongly against a federal Europe and would not want to see the pound abolished."

92 **Julian Brazier, Canterbury:** "I will fight against the abolition of the pound and its absorption into a single currency."

93 **Jonathan Aitken, South Thanet:** "I would hesitate for eternity before voting for the Single Currency and European Monetary Union."

94 **John Cuthbert, Camrook, Yeovil:** "We must have a referendum if we intend any further integration. I am against the UK joining a single currency."

95 **David Cameron, Stafford:** "When I was selected a year ago I shall oppose a single currency. I will make that clear in my election address."

96 **Andrew Smith, Cynon Valley:** "I am an implacable opponent of a single currency and would vote against any transfer of gold and bullion to Brussels. I believe in putting Britain before Brussels."

97 **Angie Bray, East Ham:** "I would oppose a single currency and any further transfer of sovereignty to Brussels."

98 **Gick, Gibb, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton:** "Our main aim should be to regain political and legal power."

99 **Sir Marcus Fox, Shipley:** "I cannot see any circumstances where I would vote for the abolition of the pound."

100 **David Porter, Waverley:** "I totally oppose a single currency. I would not repatriate nation to it to print its money."

101 **Neil Hamilton, Totton:** "Opposed to a single currency."

102 **David Wilshear, Spelthorne:** "Has come out against a single currency."

103 **John Wilkinson, Ruislip Newwood:** "Giving up the pound is unacceptable unless it is expressed by a referendum."

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# Jailed banker is 'sick and tired of lying for Clintons'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE day after Jim McDougal was said by prosecutors to have provided substantial new evidence against the Clintons, their former Whitewater partner last night said he was "sick and tired of lying for the President."

McDougal, who received a three-year sentence on Monday instead of the maximum 84 years, said he had decided to co-operate with Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special counsel, in part because President Clinton had failed to pardon his jailed former wife, Susan.

"I wasn't so much concerned that he'd abandoned me. I felt he'd abandoned Susan," said McDougal, who has claimed Mr Clinton once had an affair with his wife. "I just got sick and tired of lying for the fellow, you know."

In a nationally televised interview with NBC last night, McDougal hinted that he had given the inquiry information that could implicate both Bill and Hillary Clinton.

"I think they should be deeply concerned," McDougal said. "I think the Clintons are really sort of like tornadoes moving through people's lives and just one of the people left in the wake of their passing by."

He is believed to have reversed his original testimony to corroborate evidence given by David Hale, another Little Rock banker, that when he was Governor of Arkansas Mr Clinton was involved in soliciting an illegal loan of

\$300,000 (£185,000) for Mrs McDougal.

The President has denied under oath that he was present at a meeting in 1986 when the loan was discussed. Mrs McDougal, refusing to testify against the Clintons last year, chose instead to be jailed for contempt of court.

In arguing for a lenient sentence for McDougal, who was convicted last May on 18 counts of fraud and conspiracy involving Whitewater, Mr Starr has supported his new account. The prosecutor said the former owner of Madison Guaranty, the bank at the centre of the Whitewater scandal, had provided documents, witnesses and information previously unknown to the investigation.

The latest development has given new impetus to the inquiry and led Mr Starr to

admit that the paper trail now involved his original mandate: an order that covers only three people, Jim McDougal, the President and the First Lady.

Last night's interview marked the end of a flurry of disclosures by the White House, the Democratic National Committee and, amid Republican calls for her resignation, the rejection by Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, of demands for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate irregular fundraising by the Democrats.

The revelations were designed, in one damaging day, to combat a growing tide of negative publicity that has paralysed the President's efforts to negotiate substantive policy. The committee released 10,000 fundraising documents, including a memorandum to the White House listing big donors to be considered for senior posts and ambassadorships.

The White House also published a list of 56 contributors, including Jackie Onassis's former partner, Maurice Templesman, who have flown on on Air Force One in the past two years and a handful of others invited to the presidential retreat at Camp David in return for contributions to Mr Clinton's re-election fund.

However, attempts to dilute the renewed Whitewater revelations were unsuccessful. Among those included in the manifest of the presidential aircraft were three Democrats who had flown with the President and had paid large sums to Webster Hubbell, the convicted former Associate Attorney-General forced to resign from the Administration over his involvement in the failed Arkansas land deal.

Erskine Bowles, the White House Chief of Staff, was in Little Rock yesterday giving evidence before a grand jury about a further controversy: whether he and other Clinton aides had tried to steer "hush money" to Mr Hubbell as a reward for his silence over Whitewater and subsequent 21-month prison sentence.

Brown Maddox, page 22



Bowles: giving evidence in Little Rock yesterday

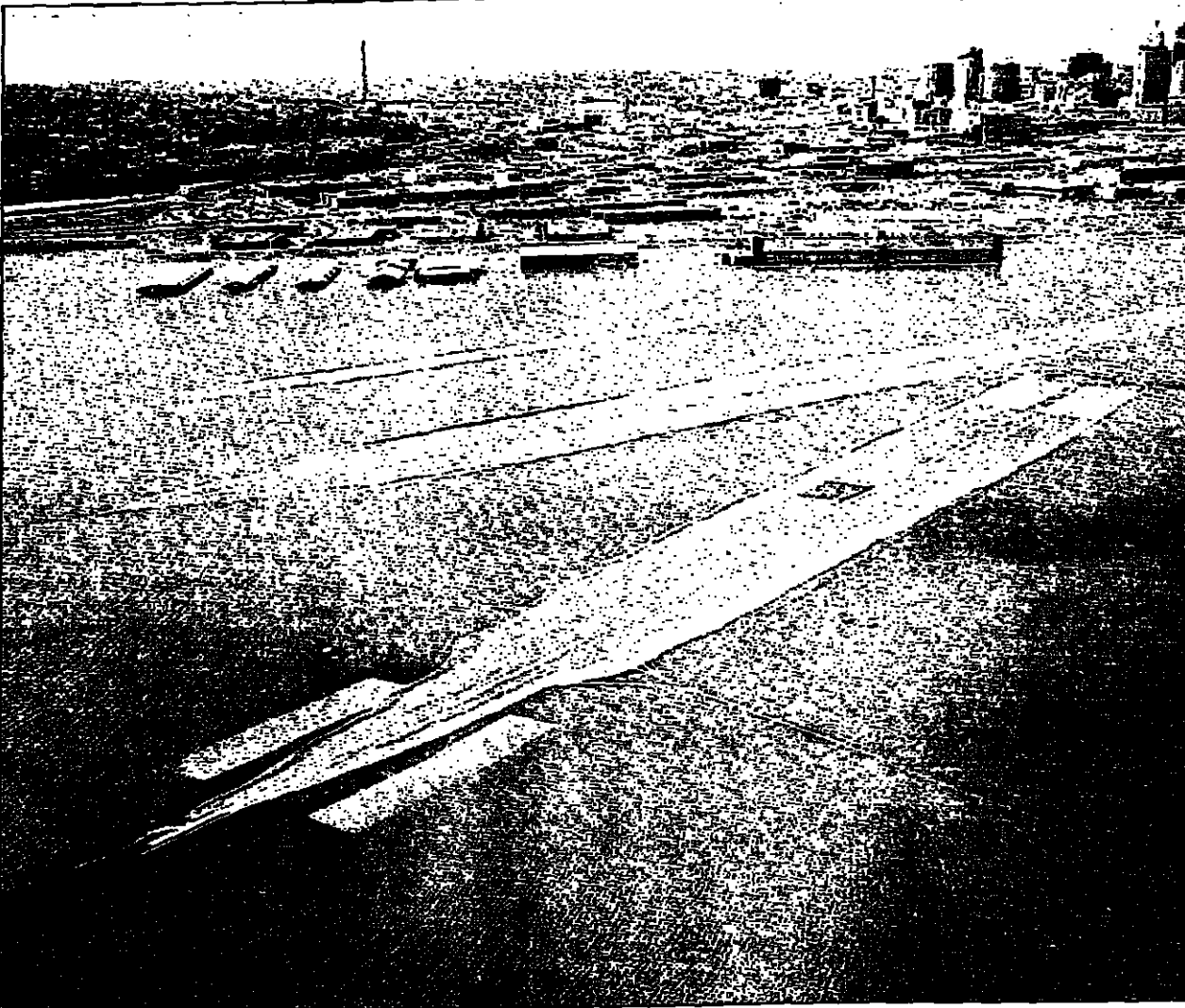
## Harriman successor

Washington: President Clinton has selected Felix Rohatyn, an urbane investment banker, to succeed Pamela Harriman as US Ambassador to Paris (Tom Rhodes writes).

Speculation has long surrounded Mr Rohatyn, 68, a senior partner at Lazard Frères in New York and a big campaign donor to the Democratic Party. He was considered a possible candidate to replace Admiral William Crowe, the US Ambassador to London, but in recent weeks

became the firm favourite to succeed Winston Churchill's famous daughter-in-law, who died in February while swimming at the Ritz in Paris.

Mr Clinton has 14 vacancies for ambassadors, including Germany, Canada, Russia, and Japan, and Mr Crowe leaves London later this year. James Collins, a State Department adviser on former Soviet nations, is expected to go to Moscow, and Tom Foley, the former Speaker, may be sent to Tokyo.



Runways at Holman Field outside St Paul, Minnesota, become islands as the Mississippi river floods surrounding land. Nearby the Army Corps of Engineers

## Islands in the flood

released more water from a brimming reservoir on the Minnesota-South Dakota

state line, adding 6in to the swollen Red River and threatening an area about 45

miles south of Fargo already devastated by melted-snow floods. In the North Dakota city, the river passed 37.88ft — its highest point this century — yesterday. (AP)

## Report attacks FBI for forensic errors

BY TOM RHODES

THE FBI crime laboratory, central to forensic evidence in the World Trade Centre and Oklahoma City bombings, made serious errors in both cases, an 18-month Washington investigation revealed yesterday.

A report by Michael Bromwich, an inspector-general from the Justice Department, recommended the removal of at least two department heads at the laboratory. But it failed to substantiate claims by Frederic Whitehurst, a forensic scientist, that technicians had perjured and fabricated evidence.

The document nevertheless detailed mistakes, including scientifically flawed and inaccurate testimony and insuffi-

cient documentation. It raised questions about why Louis Freeh, the FBI Director, had failed to address concerns about the laboratory when they were first raised publicly by Mr Whitehurst in 1994. The inspector said the agency had failed to confront the problems even earlier.

Mr Bromwich singled out FBI officials involved in the Oklahoma bombing in April 1995, America's worst act of terrorism, which killed 168 people. In what is certain to be used as evidence by the defence in the current Denver trial of Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect, the inspector said the forensic team merited "special censure" for its reliance on unscientific and speculative evidence about the explosive used. The Justice Department also documented "serious and significant deficiencies" in the World Trade Centre investigation.

In response, the FBI said it agreed with most of the recommendations. Bill Espinoza, the FBI Deputy Director, admitted "there was a clear and serious failing in not adequately detecting these problems and ... moving swiftly enough to resolve them".

## Duchess sprinkles sugar on her prose

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN newspaper editors were yesterday offered their first look at a new weekly column co-written by the Duchess of York with an experienced biographer, Jeff Coplan.

The Duchess, still short of money despite her energetic promotional engagements, is being paid about \$100,000 (£67,000) a year by the syndication department of *The New York Times* to lend her name to the column. In yesterday's first article she offered sorrowful memories — in places a little sugary — of Hector Barrientos, her late stepfather, and his Argentine burial.

On a recent trip to his grave, the Duchess "talked to Hector again, with just the crickets and aspens to answer back. I missed him more tragically than I ever had before".

Under the routine syndication arrangements, localised editing of the column, which is offered to provincial papers across the United States, is prevented. One suspects most self-respecting sub-editors might otherwise excise "tragically" in the above passage. Similarly, the Duchess's prose might be answerable to allegations of a certain over-ripeness, as when describing

the fecund flora and fauna of the South American landscape. She wrote: "A spate of rain cleansed the air" — the word "cleansed" might have sufficed — "and painted the land the hue of a billiard table. I could see for miles. Ostriches and armadillos and wild horses. I listened to the crickets and the silken breeze through the trees." Cleansing and painting? A mixed metaphor, perhaps, and "hue" is never as good as "colour". Breezes may be silken in teenage essays, but in newspapers they can blow without the adjective.

Yet these, arguably, are mere quibbles, and in many respects the Duchess writes more prettily than her rivals in the American syndication market. The column deserves a better take-up than the handful of titles which have so far accepted it. Her self-analysis is well suited to the readership. Recounting her trips to South America, the Duchess wrote: "My visits to Argentina, to its endless acres of Van Gogh sunflowers, remain imprinted upon me. They lent colour to my pale teenage life." Argentina, she said, is "my second home" where "a part of me — perhaps the best part — resides".

## Clerides rebukes protesters

Nicosia: President Clerides of Cyprus yesterday condemned violent protests at a British military base when Greek Cypriot villagers stormed a police compound and freed two detainees (Michael Theodorou writes). He said their actions could damage relations with Britain when Cyprus needed London's support to enter the European Union and solve the long-running Cyprus problem.

The trouble started when British bases police arrested a Cypriot for alleged assault.

## Clyde's death shirt sold

San Francisco: A Nevada casino paid \$35,000 (£22,125), double the estimated price, for the bullet-holed, bloodstained shirt worn by outlaw Clyde Barrow when he and his girlfriend, Bonnie Parker, were ambushed and shot dead. Barrow's belongings from his bank-robbing days with Parker netted \$187,809. More than half will go to Marie Barrow, the outlaw's only surviving sibling. (AP)

## Smoking law backfires

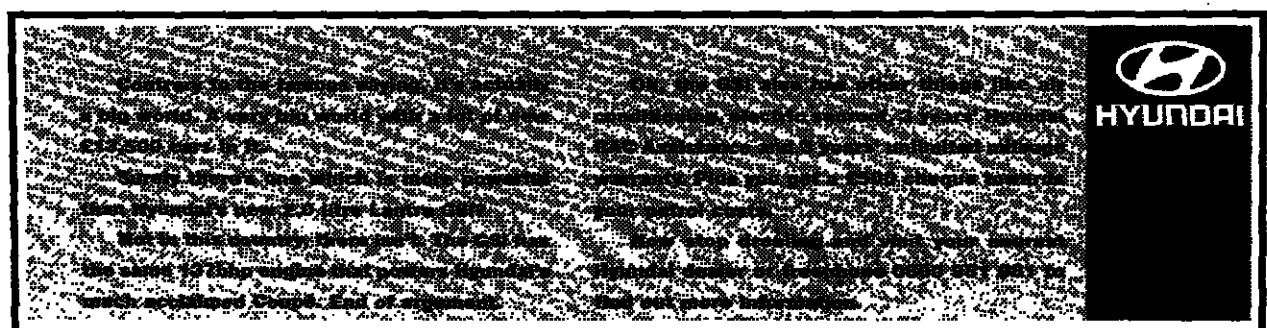
Toronto: Faced with widespread defiance by smokers and complaints from businessmen, Toronto's city council has scrapped a five-week-old bylaw that broke new ground in Canada by banning smoking in virtually all bars and restaurants. A new measure allows restaurants and bars to set aside a small area for smokers. (AP)

## Poll challenge to Iran's men

Tehran: The daughter of a late religious leader is to be the first woman in Iran to run for the presidency, the newspaper *Iran* reported. Azar Taleghani, who is in her fifties, is head of the Islamic Women's Society and a campaigner for women's rights. Iran's clerical leadership is wholly male. (AP)

## Patience wins \$12m reward

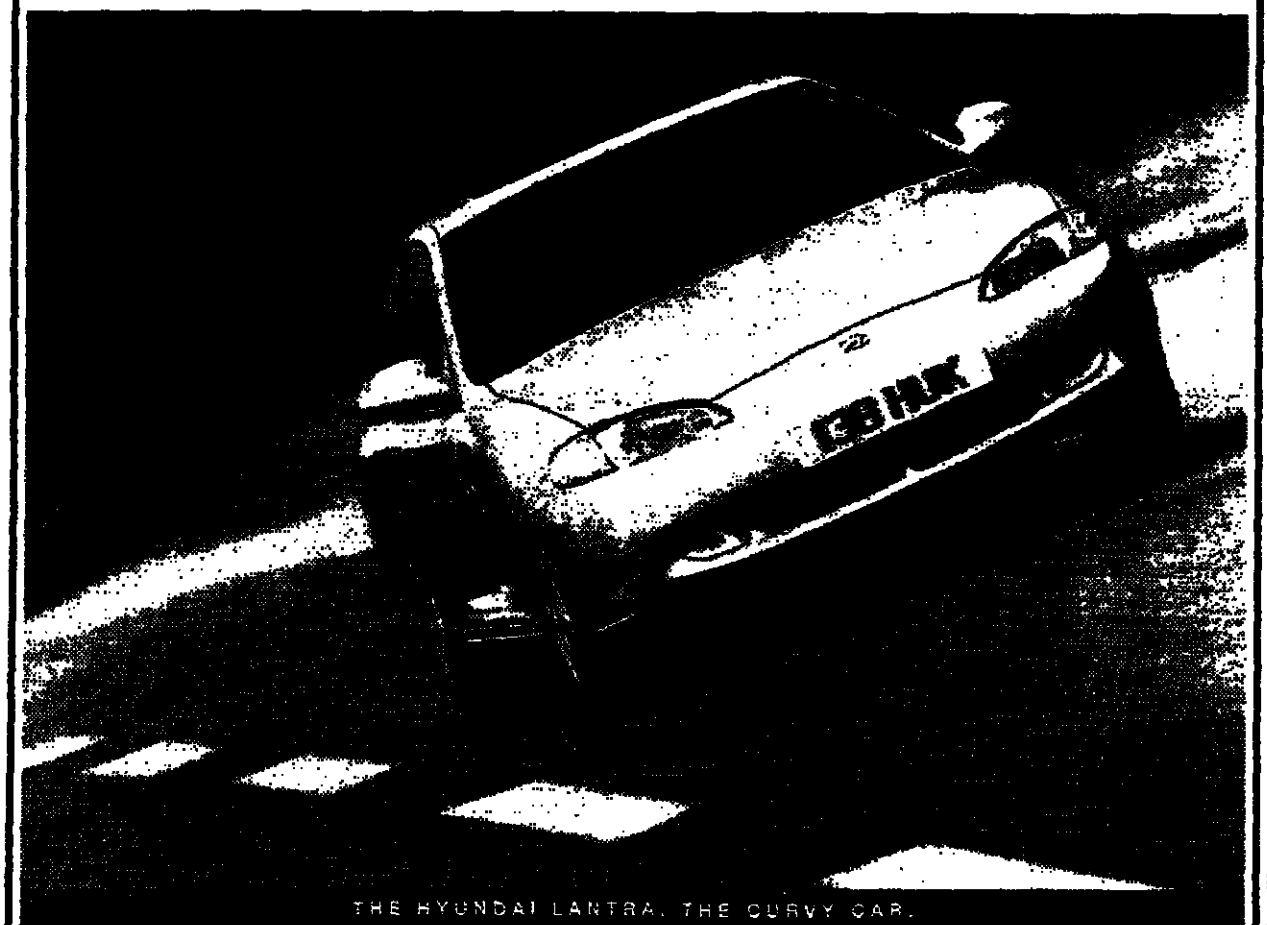
Las Vegas: Suzanne Henley, who waited for more than an hour to play her lucky casino slot machine, won a world-record \$12.5 million (£7.7 million). A man playing the machine offered to step aside for \$20, but Mrs Henley, of Las Vegas, was patient. (AP)



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## Punctual President handicapped by golf

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MANILA

THE golfing victory of Tiger Woods in the US Masters led to President Ramos arriving for the launch of a Philippines "punctuality week".

Mr Ramos, an avid golfer and fan of Woods, reportedly woke up at 4am to watch Woods live on television. But he went back to sleep after the game and overslept, the *Manila Times* reported.

He arrived an hour late for the 10am ceremony to launch the "punctuality week". Mr

Ramos has declared April 12-18 "National Consciousness Week of the Imperative for Punctuality and Respect for the Rights of Others".

Foreigners and locals who have grown up overseas complain that Filipinos regularly arrive for appointments an hour or more late.

Woods, 21, made golfing history by being the youngest champion and the first black to win the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, with the widest victory margin.

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# At last... a truly new dress

The recent fashion shows failed to provide any startlingly modern ideas. Now, at last, the designer Junya Watanabe, who started his own collection for Comme des Garçons five years ago, has come up with a really original dress, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry



LEFT: Mandarin collar apron, £925 by Junya Watanabe for Comme des Garçons. Diagonal pleat trousers, £400 by Issey Miyake. Both at Liberty. ABOVE LEFT: Dress, £645 by Yohji Yamamoto at Liberty. ABOVE RIGHT: Embroidered pants, £899 by Junya Watanabe for Comme des Garçons at Liberty. Wooden clogs, £95 from Russell & Bromley

Photographer: JULIAN MARSHALL. Stylist: Deborah Brett. Hair: Martyn Gayle for Martyn Gayle Hairdressing, London W1, 0171-792 5656. Make-up: Helen Bannion. Model: Natasha Clancy (Select)



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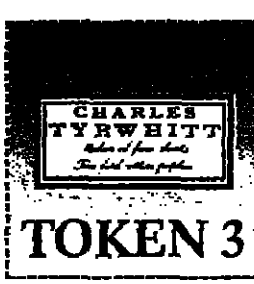
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## Shopping for enlightenment

It has taken years of dedicated research, and the sums of money involved don't bear thinking about (if I'd put them into property instead of personal adornment, we would now be occupying a penthouse in Chelsea instead of a tiny, falling-down cottage at the wrong end of Greenwich), but at last I think I've mastered the Zen of shopping for clothes. The secret is: never, ever go shopping with anyone else.

Now, as the distillation of nearly a quarter of a century's uninterrupted love affair with fashion, this may not sound like much of a revelation. But consider for a moment how seldom one ever does go shopping unaccompanied. From adolescence to motherhood, one passes through the four ages of communal shopping, with barely a garment purchased without a kind of committee vote beforehand.

It all starts in one's early teens, when the answer to the question "What are you doing on Saturday?" is invariably "Going down the shops". For little girls in towns all over England, Saturday mornings shimmer with the promise of what treasures the high street may turn up. In a primitive form of the process that later develops into Getting One's Eye In, they troop in giggling gangs through Top Shop and Miss Selfridge, trying on every hat in the place, and testing a different colour of varnish on each fingernail.

This is Britain's nearest equivalent to the *passageata*, the graceful European courtship ritual in which everyone parades up and down the main drag of an evening to see and be seen. Clutching their little bags containing glass bead friendship bracelets, and cropped mesh T-shirts with a shocking pink fake fur heart applique between the breasts, the *jeunes filles en fleurs* of the suburbs sweep haughtily homewards, pretending not to notice the waiting knots of youths who have assembled to admire them. The only problem is that pocket money doesn't stretch to anything much more substantial than a T-shirt. Which



**JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED**

is where Shopping with Mother comes in. In your teens, she keeps a firm grip on the purse strings. No, you and she will not be looking for a party frock in Kookai. You will try Laura Ashley, where something suitable will certainly be found, probably in needlecord. As the years pass, your joint shopping trips afford your mother a rare opportunity for disabbling reflection on all kinds of topics which she wouldn't normally dare raise — viz, the fact that you are still not married, indeed appear not even to have a regular boyfriend, and could this be because you are letting Yourself Go? She saw a very good diet in one of her magazines. Perhaps you would like her to send it to you. And while she is on the subject, would you like a subscription to *Dateline*?

Given the volatility of the relationship it is amazing that anyone goes shopping with their mother, ever. But somehow we do. Particularly at moments of major stress. Why, when the elusive boyfriend has finally proposed, do we take our mother with us to buy the wedding dress? So that, sitting to attention on her spindly gold chair, with her neat little legs smartly crossed, she can breathe in sharply as we emerge from the dressing room, looking like a lace and crepe de chine sausage, and say: "Good heavens, darling, when I married your father he could span my waist with his hands."

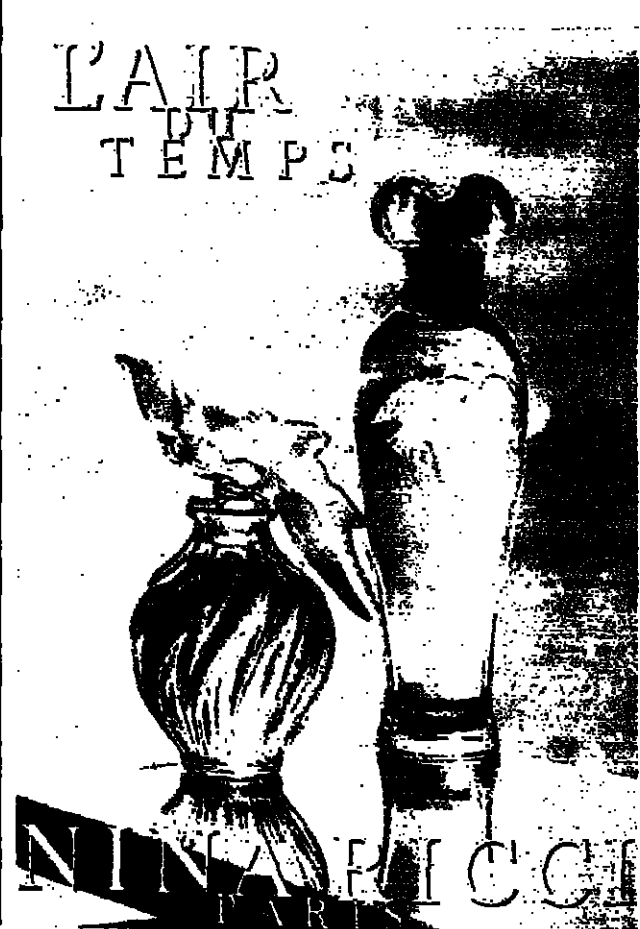
The only thing worse is going shopping with one's husband. In the first flush of love, everyone thinks what a good idea it would be to take him along to give one the benefit of his opinion. If you are very lucky, he is merely bored to tears and spends the whole time checking out the beautiful shop assistants and

saying "Yeah, it's all right, I suppose", when you ask him if he likes you in a violet two-piece costing months' salary. The really bad news is if he starts to take an interest. Before you know where you are, he has mastered the only subject about which he didn't already know everything. He hogs your *Vogue*, understands exactly what Lady Harlech does at Chanel, and discourses about the relative merits of Tom Ford and Mark Jacobs until you think you might take off your new Hermès scarf and gag him with it.

Partly to escape this, you ring up your best friend. What are you doing on Saturday? you ask. "Going down the shops," she answers, as she has for the past 20 years — only now it's more Edina and

Patsy than Girl Gangs. You arrange to meet at Harvey Nicks for a little booze and lunch. The booze uncovers a ravishing Uzbek shell top with multi-coloured dots and a Calvin Klein frock of achingly austere perfection. What a shame that they cost, together, roughly twice your month's mortgage repayment. You trot up to the restaurant and have a glass of champagne. Oooh well, go on then, just one more. An hour later, you teeter arm-in-arm back down to the first floor, where the Uzbek and the Klein look prettier than ever. Oh go ON, says your best friend. You deserve it. Damn it, I do, you think, inscribing a wavering signature on the credit card slip.

The exhilaration lasts all the way to the bus stop. The repentance is awful. You drive your husband, your mother and your best friend into a collective coma of boredom with your plaintive promises never, ever to go shopping again. It is time you got a grip. The solution is simple. Always shop alone. Never apologise, and never explain.



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# Saint or sinner?



Mystical: "My parents used to take us to the desert so that we would have more sense of ourselves and embrace nature," says Val Kilmer

Deciphering psychobabble is usually Noreen Taylor's forte, but an interview with Val Kilmer, the new Simon Templar, leaves her bemused

Listen to Val Kilmer for a couple of minutes and you crave the simple joys of a party political broadcast. Any party. Any broadcast. Here's Val on his upbringing: "A spirited foundation that gave me a notion. The US is rooted in expansionism, moral precepts that are active."

Perhaps he is a little more articulate about feelings. What makes you angry, Val? A long, sombre silence follows. After a moment, I prompt him. Injustice maybe?

"Huh, sure... though very encouraged recently by people trying to move forward when it comes to basic prejudices."

The personal pronoun is not the only thing missing from his sentences. Sense also takes flight. In his latest film, *The Saint*, he risks his life to save a woman. Would he do the same in the real world? "Wouldn't be able to live with self if you didn't. There are elements of nature rather than a sense of well-being. Man's greatest downfall is when he places himself above life and people who live close to life don't."

Though I am adept at deciphering the psychobabble employed by so many American stars, Val's paucity of words was a director's dream. He was in London to promote *The Saint*, the latest revival of Leslie Charteris's elegant English hero, Simon Templar. Never mind that Val bears not even a whiff of a resemblance to the debonair

persona of the Charteris novels: think instead of Arnie or Sly with computer toys.

I avoid offering this frank appraisal since Val has a reputation for being difficult. The film industry buzzes with colleagues' complaints about his arrogance and high-handed behaviour.

Joel Schumacher, director of *Batman Forever*, described him as "the most psychologically disturbed human being I have ever worked with."

John Frankenheimer, director of *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, confided: "I will never climb Mount Everest and I will never work with Val Kilmer again. There isn't enough money in the world."

Until he opens his mouth, Kilmer is truly impressive. He has a row of shining teeth and smiles like one of those pre-war cowboy stars. He is also deeply handsome.

Dressed in jeans and an open-necked shirt, he stands as I enter the room at the Dorchester offering me water and a cigarette. But I am wading in treacle the moment I ask a question. He continues to smile as I mention the gossip that labels him difficult.

"Abstract alleyways," he says. "Those are lies based on flattery. I work hard. One of those people was a director I turned down twice. A personal thing, you can figure that. The business community knows what happened. Audiences aren't affected." I tell him of

another story, which is surely too daft to be true. One of his people supposedly phoned a theatrical costumier to make an appointment for him and informed the assistant that Mr Kilmer would be fitted only by a girl who is size eight.

"Doesn't sound familiar," he says. "I have had the good fortune to have the same dresser in all of my movies."

And there are those who claim that Americans have no sense of irony? Why has he made comparatively few films? "In relation to my contemporaries, I have made few films. Unlike people such as Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. Tom has made some courageous choices. He has power over what he can do."

I gently remind him that what I want to know is why. It transpires that it was due to a promise he made to his former wife, British actress Joanne Whalley, mother of his two children. "I realised it was very hard to be a foreign actress in the US. She wanted to work and we discussed this in detail before we married. If she worked, I wouldn't."

The couple's eight-year marriage ended last February. He says that their two children — Mercedes, five, and Jack, two — are "what makes me happy. Love is large compared to the everyday things in life."

Both children live in Los Angeles with their mother. "They are two unique little people. My daughter is very confident about what she's interested in doing," he says. "She's not spoilt like a lot of Hollywood kids."

He has claimed that theirs was the second most expensive divorce in New Mexico. Property division was not without its entanglements, either: Val claimed that two Impressionist paintings were missing on his return home, which surprised him, since he thought she wasn't that interested.

Shortly afterwards, he was heard asking someone on a film set: "Do you think this was cruel to my ex-wife, to give my son a drum for Christmas? A big drum, double-sided." His own parents divorced when he was nine. Was he disappointed at being unable to break that mould? "Although my parents divorced, they set their differences aside. I'm grateful for that. I have joyful references as a parent, a very solid sense of encouragement of my own interests." But

his childhood was not without its own drama. His father made and lost a fortune developing real estate. Brought up on the ranch that Roy Rogers once owned in San Fernando valley, he has described the Kilmer childhood as "Tom Sawyer stuff."

Yet one of his two brothers, Wesley, drowned during an epileptic fit in the family swimming pool when he was 16. His other brother, Mark, a doctor, claims that Val doesn't want him in his life any more.

At 17, Val was the youngest student ever admitted to the drama department of New York's prestigious Juilliard school. "Since then I have been looking after myself."

Was it anxiety that prompted his need to control what went on around him?

"No, I don't suffer from anxiety. It has taken me a long time to figure out calmness, a sense of well-being within nature. My parents used to take us on trips to the desert so that we would have more sense of ourselves. Embrace nature."

Now 37, he lives alone on a ranch in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His only companions are buffalo and horses because he feels "a sense of well-being in a rural environment. More in touch with nature."

"I've been privileged living with interests other than movies. I've learnt from it. Now I'm doing job after job." To date, the jobs have included playing Jim Morrison in *The Doors*, Elvis Presley in *True Romance*, Doc Holliday in *Tombstone*, and opposite his hero Brando in *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

I couldn't have asked for more. Filming in Africa. Working with people like De Niro, and Brando, whom I've admired from childhood."

Doing a passable impression of Brando, he repeats some advice on social conditioning offered by the great one: "I've spent 50 years trying to get over the first ten."

Kilmer is now writing a film based on the life of little-known English explorer and anthropologist Adrian Boushler, who died in 1978, with whom he feels he has much in common. "I am fascinated by other people and their cultures. I will play Boushler, a most compelling man, someone who led a life full of mystical experiences. I'm looking for a director."

● The Saint opens this Friday at cinemas nationwide.

Enid Blyton was always a subversive — and children know it

## The secret power of Noddy and Big Ears

I am not sure we need official sanction from the National Centre for Research into Children's Literature to tell us, but there it is: Enid Blyton is rescued from disapprobation and well-intentioned scorn and declared A Good Thing. Now, while I agree, broadly speaking, I don't know quite how much I approve of her hearty rehabilitation.

Yes, we all know how absurd it might have been to condemn Noddy and Big Ears as insidious purveyors of a racist worldview, or try to ban her books from schools and libraries on grounds of snobbery and sexism, but the point is, Enid Blyton was always disapproved of. The reasons may have been different in my day, but she was considered no less a bad influence.

In either case, the fear is ill-founded. I wallowed in the *Mallory Towers* books and the *Naughtiest Girl in the School* (I always found the Famous Five dreadfully suburban) and from that I learnt that reading was pleasurable, that reading was the best escape route into a rich, imaginative, private world, that reading was a delight and a solace and that books were the best company. From Blyton I went on to the Brontës, to Tennyson, to Aldous Huxley and Oscar Wilde. (Baldly speaking, these were my teenage passions.) In short: Enid Blyton taught me how to read.

But I can scarcely describe the scorn of my English teachers or the disbelieving envy of my school-friends, who were all banned from reading Enid Blyton at home, and would scrounge my cast-offs, devouring them with the greedy zeal of the *samizdat*-reader. Perhaps it is to the point that children like reading whatever figures of authority regard as rubbish. I don't know. But I do know it is wrong to depict Enid Blyton as the safe, smiling face of the golden age of childhood which has now disappeared. She was always considered subversive: she wrote for our benefit, not for parental approval.

What's more, her childhood was very different from the fantasy lives of her characters — as different as it was from the life of most of her readers. That was why we liked her. Too much of contemporary disdain has been prompted by the mistaken belief that Blyton was a realist writer chronicling an



Nigella Lawson

age of which we now heartily and politically disapprove. Nothing could be further from the truth. Blyton was a fantasist: she wrote to escape from her own life and understood that was just why children read, too.

When I was a child, there was a prim sense that literature should be improving; now it is meant to be relevant. But it is to misunderstand a child's thought processes — the way the imaginative mind works — to think that one can work out in advance whether a book can be either of these things. The contract between a book and a reader is always a private one, and needs no outside interference in the form of governessy finger-wagging. Anyone who thinks books serve any purpose other than to delight and (sorry to sound so mimsily New Age) to nourish should be kept out of the way of both books and children.

I am quite prepared to believe that a child from an inner-city council estate could find pleasure and meaning in an Enid Blyton caper: fiction works by reflecting our inner lives, not merely the surface of our quotidian reality, as Bruno Bettelheim understood when he wrote about fairy tales in *The Uses of Enchantment*. I haven't read Enid Blyton for some time, but I am perfectly prepared to believe that her characterisations are every bit as crass and crude as my teachers sniffily pointed out. We may be right to

condemn adults who can never get beyond the literature of stereotypes, but for children it serves a liberating, transformational purpose.

All this may sound a very high minded way of defending Enid Blyton, and if so, I'm sorry. Nothing will stop children from reading her faster than to be told how good for them she is — and that's the last thing I'd want to do. In fact, writing this now has made me want to do nothing more than go and hide somewhere with a copy of *The Fifth Form at Mallory Towers*.

And I don't think one should apologise for one's low literary urges. When Philip Larkin was asked once about the consolations of literature, his interviewer, expecting a rather erudite reply, was surprised when Larkin said that when he felt really depressed, he helped himself out of it by staring into the bathroom mirror and saying: "I am Mrs de Winter now."

Compulsively readable though it was, there was something so dispiriting about the piece in yesterday's *Times* about teaching babies sign language. By some coincidence, I had just been thinking that, in a way, I found it sad that my nine-month-old baby was on the verge of acquiring language.

For the extraordinary thing is how much can be communicated without words. I disagree vehemently with the proposition that underpins the theory that it is an improvement to set babies speaking sign language, which is that one is frustratingly unable to understand what a baby is trying to say before it can talk. That couldn't be further from the truth. From a mother's perspective at any rate, it is rather the opposite: that the communication before language is acquired is extraordinarily total. It is right and good that babies do learn to talk, but in gaining language, this other, strong wordless means of communication is thereby lost.

I don't exactly lament that, although one sometimes can't help but feel rather mournful as one stage is given up for the next. Babies can express themselves perfectly well as it is: any communication problem is decidedly not theirs.

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## BRITISH BULLDOGS

Dame Angela's stand does democracy a double service

Labour last night tried to appropriate Britain's bulldog spirit but it is in the Conservative Party that the terriers are off the leash. The party's candidates, with Dame Angela Rumbold at their head, are outbidding each other in their opposition to a European single currency. They may be happy for their leaders to negotiate but on their own account they have already decided. The Opposition says that it is delighted by the Tory candidates' open defiance of John Major's "wait and see" policy. They see this rebellion as just the latest humiliation visited on Mr Major by his own side. The voters may see it rather differently.

The electorate has been denied direction on Europe by two party leaders so far determined to keep every option open. Tony Blair taunts Mr Major for framing his policy on a single currency to appease opposing Tory factions. But the Prime Minister can afford to ignore an accusation that he knows is undermined by the Labour leader's own actions. If Mr Major's policy is weak, then why is it also Mr Blair's policy? By imitating Mr Major's indecision Mr Blair is, in effect, flattering the Prime Minister's judgment.

The voters are unlikely to be so impressed by the leaders' refusal to say where they stand on the most important decision this country has confronted for decades. Faced with this collective dumbness the voters may very well prefer the candour of Dame Angela and her colleagues. By their actions they are helping to crystallise the choice at this election. Despite the fact that the election has become a presidential contest, the real choice is still the choice that individual voters make about individual candidates. Even as the leaders converge on the treacherous middle ground, their supporters are colonising firmer terrain.

Since the fall of Margaret Thatcher, through the watershed White Wednesday and the traumatic ratification of the Maastricht treaty, the Tory party has been evolving into a more sceptical creature. Dame Angela's stand may mark the final transition in the party's development from

poodle to boxer. The process has been accelerated by the replacement of a generation inclined to acquiesce in integration with one prepared to fight. That development can only be reinforced by the Referendum Party's targeting of the dwindling band of Conservative Euro-enthusiasts.

Robust and unapologetic Euroscepticism is no longer, it appears, restricted to the men in "flapping white coats"; it now extends to the women in blue Jaeger suits. As many as 167 Tory candidates in winnable Conservative seats have signalled their opposition to EMU. By their actions they mock the vacuum which passed for a policy with both party leaderships. They also give the voters a choice. Rather than acting as silent accomplices in the smuggling of sovereignty they have stood up to be counted.

Counting them with perhaps more concern than it might admit to should be the Labour leadership. For all the studied ambiguities of Mr Blair and the modulated doubts of Robin Cook, the Labour Party is in its heart altogether more enthusiastic for Europe than the Tories. Just as the Tory party has seen attitudes change with the generations, so has Labour. Labour's sceptics are the day before yesterday's men. Mr Blair may proclaim his patriotism but the most committed modernisers, from Gordon Brown to Peter Mandelson, a vice-president of the European Movement, are also committed integrationists.

It is an unhappy commentary on Mr Major's faith in the durability and credibility of a wait-and-see policy that he has had it so derisively flouted by his troops. It is hard to see how it reflects well on his leadership that the Tories in the country have chosen to fight a different battle from the one he wished to lead them into. Yet for voters increasingly exasperated by leaders who argued over change and trust and could not be trusted to face up to the greatest change of all, Dame Angela and her colleagues provide a reason to rally to one flag. They are doing democracy a double service, setting their face against its erosion and providing a real choice now, when it is most needed.

## PARENTS AND POLITICS

When is hypocrisy not hypocrisy?

In this humid electoral atmosphere, the April showers have been of personal abuse. Voters claim to be tired of the insults, some of which are indeed offensive and gratuitous. But others are offensive and justified. How should politicians and public draw the line between the two?

Politicians can rightly be judged on their record: it is, for instance, a sign of John Major's weak leadership that he could not stand up to Kenneth Clarke on the single currency. To call the Prime Minister "weak" might not be polite but it can be justified. It is also fair to accuse Tony Blair of "flipping" over privatisation: so recent was his conversion that it did not even make Labour's manifesto. But to call him "phony" for not much better reason than that it rhymes with "Tony" is less an act of criticism and more a piece of abuse.

The most recent Tory taunt is of hypocrisy. Both Mr Major and Michael Heseltine have called Mr Blair a hypocrite for sending his sons to a grant-maintained school outside his London borough. Yesterday, Mr Heseltine took the attack into the outer reaches of hyperbole. Because the Labour leader went to public school, he said, he could not possibly understand the state system. Mr Heseltine, a public schoolboy himself, went on to say that Mr Blair wanted to deny parents the choice that his own parents had had, to send him to private school.

The latter charge is nonsense. Labour has no plans to prevent children going to private schools. Nor does Mr Blair's own education have significant bearing on his understanding of the state system; if that were so, Mr Heseltine would be no better informed. Memories of the state system 30 or 40 years

ago are not much guide to understanding it today; it is much more useful for politicians to experience the system as parents. Mr Blair, unlike Mr Heseltine and most of his Cabinet colleagues, does so: indeed if he wins power, he will be the first Prime Minister to have children at state schools while he is in Downing Street.

In the old days, Labour politicians often educated their children privately. Now the argument is over which type of state school they should choose. The Conservative charge against Mr Blair is that he is sending his children to a type of school that he plans to abolish. Yet Labour has no intention of abolishing either grant-maintained schools or church schools. And, as Mr Blair pointed out yesterday, there is a long tradition of parents sending their children to religious schools in different boroughs.

A trickier case is that of Harriet Harman. She sent her son to a selective grammar school soon after the Shadow Education Secretary, David Blunkett, had said "no selection under a Labour government". At the time, it was a blatant breach of party policy, though now the line has softened: Labour says that it will abolish existing grammar schools only if a petition and ballot of local parents demand it.

Should parents who are also politicians choose a school according to their party's current policy or what best suits their child? Ms Harman put maternal instinct ahead of her career and tapped public sympathy in the process. She may have been called hypocritical and she will suffer in the Labour Party for her actions. But at least she will not regret on her deathbed a decision to sacrifice her child's success for her own.

## WORK FOR ST HELENA

One way for Britain to right an ex-imperial wrong

The crime of setting a police transit van on fire would hardly merit the attention of a local reporter in Birmingham or Belfast. But when this happens in a community as remote, peaceful and law-abiding as St Helena, Foreign Office officials should take note. For though the incident may be an isolated act of arson, there is no mistaking the rumbling discontent on the volcanic outcrop in the South Atlantic. St Helena, Napoleon's final place of exile and death, is going through troubled times. Islanders are almost entirely dependent on diminishing Government hand-outs; opportunities for work overseas are shrinking; and recent resignations from the local council and a spat with the British Governor have raised local hackles and tempers.

The sun set on the British Empire a generation ago. But in the 13 pink dots scattered across the world, all that is left (excluding Hong Kong) of an imperial past most Britons have long forgotten, the fading rays are still the only warmth that 170,000 overseas subjects know. Many fear that the warmth is now cooling, as Britain seeks to unburden itself of its residual responsibilities.

For the Queen's 6,000 loyal subjects on St Helena, the nearest mainland is more than a thousand miles away; the nearest commercial airport is in Cape Town. The only

connections to the outside world are the ships that sail four times a year to Cardiff and nine times to South Africa. There is virtually no private industry, no regional market and no outside investment. About 500 tourists arrive a year: some to look at Napoleon's two immaculately preserved houses.

A month ago Sir Nicholas Bonsor called a conference in London to look at ways of boosting investment in St Helena. The figures are certainly depressing: the island imports £4.7 million worth of goods a year, and exports a mere £145,000. Britain has just announced a £26 million aid package over the next three years: a higher amount per head than to any other territory. It may help; but hand-outs are not what the islanders want. They ask only to be allowed to come to Britain to seek temporary work.

Until the 1981 Nationality Act, they were able to earn good money in Britain; now they can find employment only in the Falklands or on Ascension. Allowing in a few hundred St Helenians, many willing to fill the vacancies in care work, is the least Britain can do to rectify an injustice that was made solely for fear of setting a precedent for Hong Kong. Britain still has world responsibilities: it owes a decent generosity to the subjects whose lives it still controls.

## Questions raised by Labour policies

From the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, Halfway through the campaign some very big questions about Labour's economic policies remain unanswered by Gordon Brown. Soundbite slogans are wearing a bit thin. May I use the courtesy of your columns to try again to get answers?

1. Does he accept that a windfall tax on the privatised companies will be paid for by millions of customers, employees and shareholders? How can a once-off windfall tax pay for a continuing make-work programme?

2. Mr Blair and Mr Brown use a soundbite which says: "The Conservatives have doubled the national debt." They take the base year of 1990, when the national debt was at its lowest since 1915. Twice a low number is still a low number, in historical terms. Britain's stock of debt is, for example, lower than Germany's or Japan's.

The purpose of this soundbite is to say "the public finances are in a mess". If so, do Labour think they ought to put up taxes to bring debt down faster than we are? If "yes" — which taxes? If "no" — they must stop using their soundbite.

3. Releasing local authorities' receipts increases public spending and borrowing. So Labour would worsen the debt position by this policy — unless they propose to cut other spending or put up taxes. Will they do so, or will they worsen the debt position of the country?

Some "old" Labour supporters undoubtedly hope that the new Labour leadership, once elected, will simply revert to higher spending and taxing. Mr Brown's equivocations seem to confirm that this is the case.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE,  
Conservative Campaign HQ,  
5 Westfield Park, Redland, Bristol.  
April 11.

## Drugs and prisons

From Dr J. A. Garfoot

Sir, Mr Harold Mitchell (letter, April 8; see also letter, March 31) says that crime cannot be controlled by lenient sentences.

With a 53 per cent recidivism rate, according to a Home Office study of all prisoners released in 1993 (report, March 24), it would seem that any prison sentence has a very limited success. This is especially true of drug-related crime.

At this private clinic for habitual addicts with an intractable problem, 200 of our patients had been in and out of prison several times before they came to us and had served a total of 600 years behind bars. Over the past two years only seven have returned to jail and then mainly for offences committed previously.

This 35 per cent reoffending rate surely demonstrates that maintenance treatment with a view to possible eventual detoxification is far more effective than locking them up.

Yours sincerely,  
J. A. GARFOOT,  
Laybourne Clinic,  
Laybourne House,  
Admiral's Way, E14.  
April 9.

## Medical consent

From Dr Michael Abrams

Sir, I was the British chairman of the drafting committee of the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. It is not correct to say, as Dr R. H. Nicholson, Editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, does today, that public circulation of early drafts was restricted by me.

What is correct is that such documents can be made public only with the approval of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and indeed a consultation draft was published in July 1994 by the Council of Europe.

Any interested party could then have obtained a copy from the Council of Europe and submitted comments. Subsequently the Department of Health made this draft available for comment and consulted with relevant bodies in this country, including the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ABRAMS,  
97 Wood Vale, N10.  
April 10.

## Spelling it out

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Eur Ing H. Bibring (letter, April 10; see also letter April 15) asks why people give dates as "two thousand and fourteen", rather than saying "twenty fourteen".

Actually the problem is specific to the years 2000 to 2009. One has a choice for the later decades, but must adopt the former usage when speaking of the first decade to avoid misunderstandings.

If I tell my boss that I plan to retire in April twenty one, I might find myself put out to grass four years hence — 2001, instead of my planned date in 2021.

Yours faithfully,  
N. R. MACNICOL,  
9 Church Lane,  
Greatham,  
Oakham, Rutland.  
April 15.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Election: tax, the Lords and Europe

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, The Institute for Fiscal Studies, in its report on the effects of tax changes, says that since 1979, whilst the income of society's poorest 10 per cent has increased by only 6 per cent, that of the richest 10 per cent of households has risen by 59 per cent (report, April 10).

Could we scrub all the TV debating and, instead, would the whole nation stay silent for five minutes whilst John Major justifies the inequity of the rich having got richer ten times faster than have the poor since the Tories came to power.

Yours despairingly,  
IAN BRYANT,  
Hipping Hall, Cowan Bridge,  
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.  
April 10.

From Mrs Susan Milligan

Sir, "What counts is what works" (Tony Blair speaking to a City of London audience, report, April 9) — but not, it seems, for the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN MILLIGAN,  
18a Hayburn Crescent, Glasgow.

From Mr Duncan Bryson

Sir, Despite Tony Blair having once signed up to CND, I now trust him not to give away our nuclear deterrent. He is going to sell it.

Yours sincerely,  
DUNCAN BRYSON,  
104 Martin Avenue, Irvine, Ayrshire.  
April 8.

From Mrs Margaret Daly

Conservative Parliamentary  
Candidate for Weston-super-Mare

Sir, I object most strongly to William Rees-Mogg's reference to me in his article today as being as "Euro-fanatical" as Edwina Currie. I am a positive European but totally pragmatic in my attitude to the European Union. I fully

## 'Colourised' films

From Mr Jack Black

Sir, The director of the British Film Institute (letter, April 12) drew attention to the recent screening of a "colourised" version of *The Longest Day* by LWT — a UK terrestrial television company.

In France the director, as author of a film, is accorded the moral right in law to have the integrity of his work respected. That right is part of the personnalité of the author. It cannot be assigned and is perpetual.

In 1992 a French court recognised and protected this human right, even in the case of an American film, when John Houston's daughter, Angelica, took exception to the showing of her father's classic film, *Asphalt Jungle*, in colourised form and sued to stop its showing in France. As director he had parted with "all rights" under US law and practice to the producer, as usual, when the film was made.

## Sweet and bitter

From Lord Menuhin, OM

Sir, No one could be more delighted than I to read your third leader on Saturday (April 12). Nigel Kennedy is one of the more unconventional spirits spawned by my school, following in my footsteps not only in his love of Bach and Bartok (the Solo Sonata I commissioned in 1943) but also in bridging similar worlds of music so dear to me as those of Johnny Dankworth, Oscar Peterson, Stéphane Grappelli and Ravi Shankar.

Ravi Shankar and Stéphane Grappelli both visited the Yehudi Menuhin School — Ravi inspiring another great

## Lottery and the Church

From Mr Keith Porteous Wood

Sir, The Church Commissioners recently enlightened us about the Church of England's assets which, you report, "have soared to a record £3 billion" (April 11).

The Archbishop of Canterbury now seeks lottery payouts to fund church repairs (report, April 7; letter, April 9). Surely lottery distributions should be for the disadvantaged, not for wealthy organisations that could manage without them.

Yours sincerely,  
K. PORTEOUS WOOD  
(General Secretary),  
National Secular Society,  
Bradlaugh House,  
47 Theobald's Road, WC1.  
April 9.

## Pedestrian crossings

From Mr Mark Whitby

Sir, An excellent new form of pedestrian crossing is appearing in many of our towns. In the form of a raised element of the road level with the pavement, with paving instead of asphalt, and with approaches of cobbles.

Whilst clearly intended to make it easier for us to cross the road, do these crossings imply a right of way for pedestrians in the manner that zebra crossings do, or are they just another form of sleeping policeman?

Yours sincerely,  
MARK WHITBY,  
5 Broughton Gardens, N6.  
April 9.

support the Conservative policy on Europe as outlined in our manifesto.

Indeed, the local chairman of the Campaign for an Independent Britain recently issued a public statement saying that he would be supporting me. He has rejoined the Conservative Party since my selection and has been out delivering leaflets on my behalf.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET DALY,  
Campaign Headquarters,  
28 Boulevard Weston-super-Mare,  
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.  
April 14.

From Mr Frederick Cosstick

Sir, As an Englishman, Sussex born and bred, I was somewhat alarmed to find my political future and the future of Britain in Europe being discussed on *Newsnight* last evening in Scottish accents by a panel consisting of Malcolm Rifkind, Charles Kennedy and Robin Cook.

Am I politically incorrect by daring to raise this issue in your august columns?

Yours faithfully,  
FRED COSSTICK,  
3 High View Court,  
Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.  
April 10.

From Mr Christopher Harris

Sir, For many years far too many people have failed to record their votes.

I commend the system in New South Wales, Australia. Voting there is a legal duty, and failing to vote a criminal offence. The ballot sheet has a box for abstentions. In my view an abstention is perfectly sensible if one dislikes all the other options.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER HARRIS,  
17 Rookwood Court,  
Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey.  
April 14.

Fred Zinnemann, who fought against this colourised process in Britain and the US, thoroughly approved of the French decision. He lived to see a limited director's moral right provided in the UK in 1989, and the director made co-author with the producer from December 1, 1996, implementing EU directives.

However, great black and white films (being in any case pre-1989) may in principle not be legally safe in this country from colourisation. Moreover, in the case of satellite transmissions which do not have legal safeguards, even France would have difficulty in protecting the integrity of the director's work.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK BLACK  
(Co-author with Robert Merkin,  
Copyright and Designs Law,  
FT Law and Tax, 1997),  
9 Park Avenue, NW11.  
April 13.

folk violinist from the school, Volker Biesenbender, well known on the Continent and in our music conservatoires; Stéphane immediately became Nigel's wonderfully generous tutor in jazz. It was shortly after his visit to the school that Stéphane invited Nigel to play jazz at Ronnie Scott's club, where night after night Nigel played with his great mentor.

Yes, we need more Lennie Bernstein. But what neither he nor I could ever quite bring ourselves to do was to exit from the stage with a pint of bitter!

Yours truly,  
YEHUDI MENUHIN,  
65 Chester Square, SW1.  
April 13.

## Record births

From Professor Sir John Dewhurst

Sir, Your report today of the safe delivery of Mrs Pauline Thomson of a son weighing 14lb 3oz contains the comment that "the heaviest child recorded was born in Italy in 1955 at 22lb 8oz".

Gould and Pyle in *Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine*, published in Philadelphia by Saunders in 1901, record a larger one.

They give an account of the marriage, at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, in 1871, between Captain Martin Bates and Miss Anne Swan, who called themselves the tallest couple in the world. She was 7ft 5½ in in height, he 7ft 2½ in.

During Mrs Bates's second confinement great difficulty was experienced in freeing the child's shoulders and a second physician was summoned "by telegram" to assist.

After "a laborious siege" Mrs Bates was finally delivered of a stillborn child weighing 23lb 12oz.

Yours,  
JACK DEWHURST  
(Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospitals),  
21 Jacks Lane,  
Harefield, Middlesex.  
April 15.

Letters to the Editor  
that are intended  
for publication should carry a  
daytime telephone number. They  
may be sent to a fax number —  
0171-782 5046.

## Burial of London's precious history

From Professor Andrew Gurr

Sir, The long election campaign seems to have freed ministers from facing difficult decisions. John Gummer, Virginia Bottomley and Lord Inglewood, the ministers responsible for matters of national heritage, are refusing to question English Heritage's outrageous view that the decision by Southwark Council Planning Committee to allow building over the original Globe site need not be referred to them. A flood of letters from academics and others interested in finding more about Shakespeare's theatre, including a petition sent by 495 members of the Shakespeare Association of America, has been ignored.

Since taking control of London's sites in 1991, English Heritage has applied a blanket policy of leaving every site buried. This has the advantage of cheapness, while serving the developers' interests in allowing new building on top of the sites so long as they are not actually destroyed. It also has, however, the massive disadvantage of blocking any new information about the sites. This policy has destroyed the expertise London archaeologists developed up to 1991, and is now blocking a whole generation of students, scholars and the public at large from learning more about early London.

This policy of mindless burial does serious damage when applied to sites containing uniquely important structures like Shakespeare's Globe (letter, March 22). Much more was learned about the Globe's design from the small section that the Museum of London archaeologists dug up in 1989 than had been found in centuries of study up to then. Now a crane looms ominously over the site, and English Heritage has set itself against any more digs into the floor of Anchor Terrace, where the foundations of the original stage still exist.

The Government tacitly accepts the English Heritage view and ignores the outcry against it. People in the future will find it hard to forgive such short-term thinking.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW GURR,  
University of Reading,  
Department of English,  
Whiteknights,  
PO Box 218, Reading RG6 6AA.  
April 14.

## Tewkesbury battlefield

From Mr Michael Rayner

Sir, I am amazed by the statement which you attribute to the leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council (report, April 7; letter, April 9) that there is "no evidence" that the Gastons, the field on which the council is proposing to build 62 new houses, was where the battle of Tewkesbury was fought in 1471.

Primary sources, as well as the landscape itself and thorough modern research, prove that the Gastons site is within the area so designated on the English Heritage battlefields register.

Such sites have far more value than their monetary worth: they must be preserved for future generations. We trust that the Secretary of State for the Environment will intervene.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL RAYNER  
(Co-ordinator),  
The Battlefields Trust,  
Meadow Cottage, 33 High Green,  
Brooke, Norwich, Norfolk.  
April 7.

## Childhood literature

From Mrs Christine McRitchie Pratt

Sir, As another reader with fond memories of *Little Grey Rabbit* (letter, April 10), never do I see the letters RSVP at the bottom of an invitation without remembering, thankfully, that Rat Shant Visit Party.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTINE MCRTICHIE PRATT,  
Brackendale,  
Shelford Bottom,  
Babraham Road, Cambridge.  
April 11.

From Mrs A. G. Lynne

Sir, For me it is the blind faith from that "simpler" time of poor Jimmie nibbling her own stuffing that brings the tear whenever I cut up bits of sage.

Yours faithfully,  
A. G. LYNNE,  
Dedham Road,  
Dedham, nr Colchester, Essex.  
April 10.

## They're over here

From Mr D. P. Wright

Sir, I am the Housemaster of a Hailbury School boy's boarding house named after Rudyard Kipling. I have just opened a letter, addressed to Kipling House, from the Associate Dean of a famous American university. It begins, "Dear Kipling, Clean out a desk drawer! This is just the first millimeter of the two-meter stack of letters and glossy brochures headed your way ..."

What can I do to prevent this unsolicited assault?

Yours faithfully,  
D. P. WRIGHT  
(Housemaster),  
Kipling House,  
Hailbury, Hertford SG13 7NU.  
April 12.







## OBITUARIES

## WILLIAM RIGHTER

William Righter, former Reader in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Warwick, died of cancer in London on April 14 aged 69. He was born in Kansas City on August 31, 1927.

A charming, intellectual and, above all, cultured American, William Righter was a figure who might almost have stepped from the pages of a Henry James novel. Indeed, he held the work of James in the highest regard and became increasingly interested by the subtle inflections of his moral universe. In retirement he met regularly in a London pub with like-minded scholars to discuss "the Masters" ambiguities and veiledities.

It was the interface between philosophy and literature which Righter examined. As a Reader in English and Comparative Literature at Warwick University, he was admired for his wide-ranging scholarship and open-minded critical and philosophical approach. He refused the over-simple and the schematic, contributing in his distinctively humane, subtle and allusive manner to critical debates from Empson and Richards to Kristeva and Derrida. The enduring end of criticism, he wrote in his *Logic and Criticism* (1963), is "to open up as much of the work as one can, and relate as much as seems relevant to both literary and personal situation".

Valued as a lecturer, Righter's sceptical probing of the role of the "study" of literature in relation to the intelligent "reading" of it, gave a distinctive flavour to his teaching. He was greatly influenced by Isaiah Berlin, as well as by Montaigne's perception that "every example turns", and his acute awareness of the pitfalls of relativism never led him to swerve from his abiding commitment to pluralism.

Righter chose to live in Europe for much of his life. He understood its many-faceted culture, approaching it with that particular insight and



sensitivity which an outsider can sometimes bring. He haunted museums all over the world, from the Nelson Gallery in Kansas City to the Uffizi, from the British Museum to the Louvre. Guests who were invited to sit around his dinner table — at which carefully selected wines and foods would be served — would be treated to discourses of delicate

discernment and profound learning, always delivered in perfect Jamesian sentences. Righter unfurled his thoughts in elegantly rolling clauses, never struck by hesitation or at a loss for the *mot juste*. He also had a particular rapport with the young and was a sensitive, careful and encouraging listener.

William Harvey Righter began his

academic career at Harvard, from which he graduated in 1949 *cum laude* in philosophy. He went on to read for his MA at Kansas University where in 1951 he was appointed Whitecomb Fellow in Comparative Literature, a position he was to hold for two years.

In 1954 he went to Oxford, where he obtained a BLitt, before returning to the United States to teach at Cornell University. There, as a young lecturer, he was accused by an elderly departmental gargon, "Young man, you must get yourself a century," she admonished. Through out his life Righter resolutely declined to take this advice. He was never rammed in his thought, either by specialty or tradition.

Righter returned to France and then to England in 1960 where he lectured at King's College, Cambridge, and supplemented his salary teaching servicemen at the University of Maryland (Overseas). As his students were of highly varied educational background, to assess them he always asked them to write an account of their lives. One student began: "I was born in a house of sin and hate." It was, Righter thought, a terrible thing to try to educate a man who would never write a better sentence in his life.

Righter published his first book in 1963, *Logic and Criticism* was a carefully reasoned study of the ways in which literature has been discussed, mainly in the present century. Entirely "naturalistic" or entirely "aesthetic" explanations were inadequate, Righter argued, and with characteristic vigour and precision he unearthed all that might be inaccurately assumed by a critical remark. He showed how narrow could be the single-stranded approach of critics such as Cleanth Brooks (with his concept of irony) or William Empson (with his ideas of ambiguity). This book, wrote a reviewer in *The Times Literary Supplement*, "wields a knife that will go on cutting... for a long time".

In 1964 Righter published a second

work, *The Rhetorical Hero*, a distinguished contribution to the study of André Malraux, a writer whom he saw as "a last incarnation of 'Faustian man'". Righter, with "his fresh and critical mind", shows, as one reviewer phrased it, "an intelligence quite equal to that of Malraux".

With his expertise in both literary studies and philosophy, Righter was invited in 1965 by Professor George Hunter to join him at the foundation of the University of Warwick to set up its department of English and Comparative Literature.

From the start he helped to develop its innovative role in studying English literature in its European and American literary contexts. He spread the comparatist word in the University of Hong Kong in the early 1970s when, on secondment from Warwick, he was for three years Professor of Comparative Literature there.

Righter was influential in the pioneering work on the study of the inter-relationships between philosophy and literature, for which Warwick University has become well known. He worked closely with members of the philosophy department and continued to support its centre for research in philosophy and literature, even after his retirement in 1993. He participated in a seminar last summer with Professor Martha Nussbaum on Henry James.

Righter published two other significant works in his life *Myth and Literature* (1975) and *The Myth of Theory* (1994). The last reveals a philosophical mind, unlimited by any single tradition, taking a clear and demanding look at the areas over which literary theory too often claims too little or too much. He was also the general editor of the series *Concepts of Literature* and, up until the time of his death, he was preparing a manuscript on the late work of Henry James.

William Righter was three times married. His wife since 1968, Rosemary Righter, is the chief leader writer of *The Times*.

## TIMOTHY MASON



Timothy Mason, cellist, died of cancer in London on April 4 aged 68. He was born on April 29, 1948.

house in Notting Hill in 1973 the programme included Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* (for piano, violin, clarinet and cello).

Mason's musical tastes were completely catholic and he was as at home tackling new music (much of it commissioned by him for Capricorn) as he was playing in period instrument ensembles. As co-principal cellist of The English Baroque Soloists and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and cellist in the London Fortepiano Trio, he took part in many recordings.

His prodigious energy was poured not only into his own performing but also into the organisation of the groups in which he played. As chairman of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for eight years, he had a profound influence on every aspect of the orchestra's activities — from repertoire to guest artists. A more conscientious administrator would be hard to imagine: nothing he did was informed by self-interest but rather by a passionate sense of wanting the music to be performed as well as possible.

In the mid-1970s Mason bought a house in then unfashionable Hackney with the viola player Jan Schlapp, whom he married. Alongside his professional commitments, he worked on musical analysis at London University, while deliberately not seeking a further academic degree. The study of analysis was typical of his inquiring mind, always eager to delve further towards understanding of music of all kinds.

Yet playing the cello remained his bedrock. His chosen instrument had been his companion throughout life — from the hours of scales in the school holidays through the concertos he played with the Leicester Orchestra and in Cambridge to the constant orchestral and chamber concerts of his professional life.

He continued playing professionally until his last trip abroad last month to Paris to perform with John Eliot Gardiner's *Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique*. It was a source of great regret to him that he had been too ill to play in the same orchestra's recent Schumann weekend at the Barbican, since Schumann was one of the many composers in whom he had a passionate interest.

The cancer that struck him last summer forced Mason to take life more easily than ever before, and queues of visitors formed in the corridors of St Bartholomew's Hospital. It is a measure of his extraordinary selflessness that he expressed surprise that he had so many friends.

He is survived by his wife Jan and their children Nathaniel and Lucy.

## AUDREY HARVEY



Audrey Harvey, journalist and charity worker, died on April 10 aged 85. She was born on March 3, 1912.

FOR 25 years Audrey Harvey was one of the more distinguished contributors to the *New Statesman*. Writing only three or four times a year, she specialised in stories of injustice in the housing field — dealing with possession orders, rent arrears, tied occupancies and all the other legal problems that used to affect the lives of those whom in the title of an influential 1950s Fabian pamphlet she once termed *Casualties of the Welfare State*.

That, no doubt, risks making her copy sound worthy but dull. In fact, it was never anything of the sort. Audrey Harvey possessed a remarkable capacity for story-telling, as was reflected in the headings (always chosen by herself) for her articles. These varied between "Man About the House", through "The Furnished Room Mystery" to "The Case of the Student's Wife".

Perhaps, however, her most famous piece was one she wrote in February 1977. It was about a man-and-wife team who had been employed at a house in Mayfair to look after the property, largely in its owner's absence. The wife had died and their employer was seeking to evict the surviving husband. The article was called simply "The Duke's Servant" — and, though the dual identity was disguised, it was sufficiently thinly concealed for it to be guessed at in one by the Duke of Devonshire's sister-in-law, Jessica Mitford (who proceeded to make maximum mischief out of it). The article read — as she wrote at the time — "like a Somerset Maugham or even a Maupassant short story".

Harvey's writing facility was, of course, linked to considerable knowledge. Although not a lawyer herself, few members of the legal

profession knew more about the provisions of the various Rent Acts or the regulations for Supplementary Benefit than she did. She had mastered her material the hard way — starting out by involving herself in a Citizens' Advice Bureau in the East End of London, going on to be a founder member of the Child Poverty Action Group, of which she was for two years the citizens' rights officer, and ending up as a prominent supporter of the housing charity, Shelter. (She had been active in advising Jeremy Sandford on the famous TV drama-documentary of 1966, *Cathy Come Home*, which led to Shelter's foundation.)

Typical of her less colourful but no less solid work was the Penguin special she published in 1964 entitled *Tenants in Danger* — not just a philippic against rapacious landlords but a complete *vade-mecum* for all those who, in the immediate post-Rachman era, found themselves at their mercy.

At first sight, Audrey Harvey was an improbable agent for so much campaigning energy. The product of a conventional girls' boarding school and Oxford University, where she read English, she retained the patrician aura belonging to her background. In courts and tribunals, where she often appeared to lend her personal support to the cases she took up, this good-looking woman in good stead — magistrates and tribunal chairmen tending to believe that there must be something to be said for a cause embraced by so well-spoken a witness. Yet though her middle-class demeanour may have broken the ice, it was her total command of her subject that enabled justice at least sometimes to prevail.

Audrey Harvey was twice married. She is survived by her second husband, the osteopath Ronald Harvey, to whom she had been married for almost 50 years, and by a daughter.

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## WOMEN'S EMIGRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir—The question of the employment of women of the educated classes who are obliged to earn their livelihood is becoming year by year a more urgent matter. The numerical preponderance of women over men in this country is chiefly marked in the upper strata of society, and the problem becomes more difficult the higher the education and the social status. On a visit to this country nothing so impresses the thinking Canadian, Australian, or South African, who is accustomed to a system where women are in a minority, as the excess of women of his own class, many of whom have before them little chance of a useful and attractive career. The young man of the educated classes goes abroad to make his way in the world, but his sister, however capable, has no such outlook. She is compelled often to linger at home till her youth is past, with no better prospect than a future of aimless and dreary spinsterhood, or to swell the ranks of some of the badly-paid and overworked professions open to present women in this country. In this, as in other matters, we may well look to the Colonies for a solution. We can give what they lack: they can hold out what we need. Much has been done in recent years by organizations such as the British Women's Emigration Association and the South African Colonization Society, to find suitable openings for domestic servants, and, to a small extent, for nurses, teachers, and professional women. The

## ON THIS DAY

April 16, 1910

The first signatory of this letter was Princess Helena Victoria, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

Central Bureau for the Employment of Women is endeavouring to deal with the question of female employment within these islands, but for the ordinary educated woman who may be desirous of, and at the same time admirably fitted for, a Colonial career, little has been done. And yet in all our Colonies there are openings which might well be utilized. The educated gentlewoman, accustomed to country life, with a knowledge of practical affairs, and with a little capital, might find an opportunity in some of the many departments of intensive agriculture. In the towns there are forms of employment similar to those existing here, but better paid and infinitely less overlooked. In nursing, in teaching, in clerical work, and in a score of other activities the Colonies report that there is a need of women's

assistance. If some portion of our surplus female population, trained and educated in accordance with the best English traditions, could find a career overseas within the Empire, it would not merely do much to improve the position at home, but it would provide the overseas nations with a type of colonist which in a new country is obviously of the highest value. Existing organizations provide the machinery of emigration, but it seems to us that the crying need is for a proper intelligence department which shall estimate the demand of the Colonies and bring it into relation with the supply which we believe to exist which will keep an eye on all suitable overseas openings for women, and endeavour to find for them the proper occupants. It is important that women, more than other colonists, should only leave this country for assured and suitable work. For this purpose the Committee of Colonial Intelligence for Educated Women has been formed, and we appeal for funds to carry out the work. We are, HELENA, President of the South African Colonization Society, ALICE BECTIVE, President of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, LOUISA KNIGHTLEY, President of the British Women's Emigration Association, CAROLINE GROSVENOR, Chairman of the Committee of Colonial Intelligence for Educated Women.



## How do you protect the unprotectable?

Privacy is dead. Camcorders, surveillance cameras, cash machines and credit cards record every aspect of our lives. Mobile phones can be listened to. Soon satellites will be able to track any moving object anywhere on the globe. With no secrets left, how to protect the unprotectable?

The new Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC) is under statutory obligation to try. Formed at the beginning of the month out of two bodies with unfavourable names, the Broadcasting Standards Council (which looked after taste and decency) and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (which dealt with complaints of unfair treatment on air) the new commission has the unhappy task of drawing up a new code of practice on privacy and fair treatment.

I say "unhappy" because the task is impossible. All codes and laws to protect privacy run the risk of concealing injustice. Call it "the Maxwell question". A privacy law might curb unwarranted intrusion but only partly. Such a law is so hard to draw up that even the Conservatives have backed off. Their election manifesto promises merely continuous vigilance on whether legislation is needed.

Both the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party, in contrast, would bring in privacy protection by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. Yet both parties recognise the inherent danger. Each insists that a Freedom of Information Act is a necessary counterbalance. Otherwise Britain will become an even more secret society.

A privacy law could help in protecting some innocent victims of unwanted publicity, such as the man from Brentwood in Essex who was caught on a local council's closed-circuit television as he tried to slash his wrists. He was not pleased months later to see the scene of his anguish replayed for 9.2 million viewers on BBC's *Crime Beat* as an example of how a surveillance system can save lives. The man concerned, with the help of the civil rights organisation, Liberty, is suing Brentwood Council for damages.

Legal deterrent might also reduce the tendency of television crews to follow the police on dawn raids in order to feed the current appetite for what is called "reality TV".

A new threat to increase privacy protection, however, has thrown the broadcasters into a panic. It has come in the form of rumours of the contents of the BSC's new privacy code, even though the commission has been swift to point out that it has been merely gathering suggestions. Its draft code will not be ready for a few months yet.

To the general public, the rumoured BSC proposals will sound like exactly what is needed to protect them from being exposed

or misrepresented on air. A right, for example, to withdraw an interview after it has been filmed or recorded; a right to be informed of any change in the nature of the planned programme; a right to be given the names of everyone else who is taking part, and to be informed of the questions in advance.

Yet to broadcasters these restrictions would kill investigative reporting stone-dead. What's more, if all contributions to any programme had to receive the consent of all participants, there would be no more gripping fly-on-the-wall documentaries such as the BBC's series on the Royal Opera House. Crusading doorsteppers such as Roger Cook would be stopped in their tracks.

One of the curses of a secret society is overprotection, of broadcasting particularly. The BSC should note that a serviceable privacy code for broadcasters already exists. Drawn up by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) for commercial television, it deals succinctly with the multifarious dangers of privacy invasion that arise during the broadcaster's working day: hidden microphones, secret cameras, interviews with children and the bereaved, entertainment programmes with dramatised reconstructions, interviews obtained by deception. The ITC is currently considering a number of complaints against Channel 4's stylish satire *Brass Eye*.

The ITC at least has teeth. It can levy fines or even remove a broadcast licence. The BSC has no such powers. For all the high calibre of those who work for it, it remains, like its predecessors, essentially a shoulder for the public to cry on. It ought simply to adopt the ITC's code and get on with its other business.

In the end, all privacy codes fail because every case stands or falls on its merits. Is this intrusion in the public interest? The only all-purpose answer a code can give is "sometimes".

Besides, public grievance against broadcasters is incurable. For some, any filming of grief will be excessive. Many do not accept the facts of copyright law — that the rights to a picture belong with the photographer, and that the rights to private letters, diaries and videos belong with their owner, or his estate, even if he was Frederick West.

The best defence against invasion of privacy is self-defence. Interviewers should not be allowed in without proper credentials and without a consent form stipulating that the interview is to be used only for the single programme in question, and not to be reused as archival material later. The other defence is a thick skin. With exceptions for the bizarre, most of our secrets are the same.



BRENDA MADDOX

## Chasing boys from the Beeb

THE search for a new chief executive for Channel 4 began in earnest this week. The shortlist of candidates drawn up by head-hunters Goddard Kay Rogers is understood to include Michael Jackson, director of television at the BBC and controller of BBC1, and Alan Yentob, the Beeb's director of programmes.

From Channel 4 are John Willis, director of programmes, Stewart Butterfield, director of advertising sales and marketing, and Colin Levanthal, director of acquisitions. Bob Phillips, deputy director general of the BBC, is a possible contender. His case is being pushed by some Channel 4 insiders who believe that his arrival at the station would be less likely to prompt the departure of the popular Willis, who would be virtually certain to exit if the job goes to a "programme man" such as Jackson or Yentob.

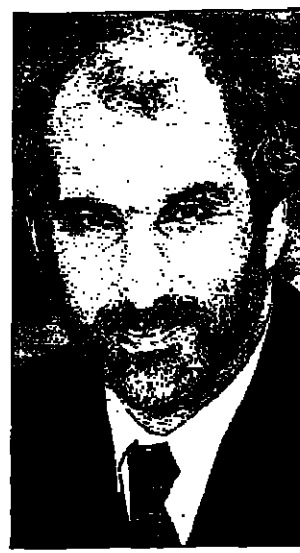
There are also understood to be at least two candidates from outside the industry. Greg Dyke has reportedly let it be known that he would



In the frame: Michael Jackson (left) and Alan Yentob

consider the job, although he is not interested in attending an interview. Another contender is thought to be former CBS head Howard Stringer.

Each candidate has been asked to write a "manifesto" for Channel 4. The interview panel is believed to consist of Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of Channel 4, and board members David Flintridge and Professor Mary McAleese. The interviews, which began yesterday, are taking place at Dorington Hall, the imposing Derbyshire HQ of British Midland, where Sir Michael is also



chairman. If a candidate is found, the decision could be confirmed on April 28.

### Answers please

THE dry and boring performances of Robin Cook and Michael Portillo which last week kicked off BBC's *Election Call* phone-in series (broadcast simultaneously on Radio 4 and BBC1) has prompted soul-searching at the BBC's Millbank bunker in Westminster.

Peter Sissons, who is hosting the series, says: "We have to save the phone-in from

determined politicians who see it as an opportunity, because they have no eye contact with their questioner, to steamroller their way through question after question without giving a proper answer."

### Goodbye then

DOWNSTIZING continues apace, meanwhile, at *The Express*. The latest employees to leave the paper "by mutual agreement" are the arts editor, Mal Peachey, his deputy, Jane Dowie, and arts writer Charlie Porter. Their exodus means the disappearance of the paper's weekly Preview arts section, which at one point was credited with boosting sales on Fridays.

"Mal joined the paper last year on the understanding that it was going to be a year of going upmarket. But the reverse has happened," an insider says.

Peachey's departure is all the more embarrassing for *The Express* since just two weeks ago he was invited to be a judge for the South Bank Show Arts Awards, as part of a determined bid by the programme to include a tabloid journalist on its jury.

THE production team of *They Think It's All Over*, BBC1's highly successful sports quiz, has received scores

of unsolicited letters from young, male viewers asking for a job.

Producer Harry Thompson says that the extra work this is giving him and his lads is making him as sick as a parrot. Making a weekly, topical sporting quiz show is not as easy as it seems, he says.

"They seem to think we do nothing but sit around talking about football all day." Well, don't they?

### Second bite

THE BBC is being offered a TV version of Hugh Walpole's classic novel *Rogue Herries* — by the man who thwarted its efforts to turn it into a TV series five years ago.

Richard Price, head of the Primetime distribution and production company, acquired the rights to the novel in the 1980s. When the English copyright lapsed, the BBC started its own plans to turn the story into a TV series. Not wanting to proceed without the prospect of international sales, the Beeb abandoned its plans on learning that Price held the US and German rights for a further 20 years.

Now, under the latest European copyright rules, Price has reacquired the British rights and is to make a mini-series of two two-hour shows for international screening.

## Ad men caddie for golf

FLUSHED with the discovery of the 21-year-old US Masters champion Tiger Woods, golfers are now turning to advertising to help shake off the sport's stuffy image further and brush up its appeal to a younger, more affluent, even female audience.

The Professional Golfers' Association, golf's ruling body, has hired J Walter Thompson, the agency which created the Andrex puppy, to devise a campaign to coincide with next week's National Golf Week.

While the budget might not match the £40 million paid to Woods by Nike in a massive sponsorship deal, the PGA is using advertising for the first time and has briefed JWT to create a press and poster campaign plus a TV commercial for Sky TV.

Mike Gray, PGA's commercial director, says: "PGA National Golf Week is an initiative to encourage more people to take up golf. We have decided

### ADVERTISING

to seek guidance and expertise from JWT rather than handling our creative work in-house."

DENIS LEARY, the shock US comedian best known in the UK as the frontman for Holsten Pils's advertising, is causing a stir by starting in an uncannily similar series of commercials for the American software giant and Internet service provider, Lotus.

The style of the new Lotus films, by Ogilvy and Mather US, bears a close resemblance to the Holsten ads, originally created by GGT Advertising. As with the Holsten work, Leary is seen fast-talking his way through scripts, spitting out such lines as "If you wanna surf, go to Maui", while the tone is similarly anarchic and cynical. The commercials potentially

contravene the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Committee notes of guidance which dictate that ads resembling other commercials "so closely as to cause confusion" are not acceptable.

A STORM is brewing between the key advertising trade bodies and Equity, the actors' union, over the fees paid to voice-over artists in commercials.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers and the Advertising Film and Videotape Producers' Association are trying to wipe out the discrepancy which allows actors to do voice-overs for rival advertisers, while on-camera actors are ruled out of appearing in rival ads for three years.

Equity is digging its heels in and industry insiders say talks have broken down completely.

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- assist with the management of the company.

**The person**

- graduate in a technical discipline; qualified chartered electrical engineer, probably aged 35 to 45, and computer literate
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### Television and the digital revolution

THE TIMES

Business

Every election since 1979, when The Sun endorsed Margaret Thatcher and helped her to Downing Street. The Sun's Daily Mail. The Express have backed the Conservatives and published the Labour Party. They were dubbed the " Tory tabloids" and with up to 18 million readers their support mattered. With The Sun now endorsing Tony Blair, The Express under chief executive Clive Hollick, a Labour man showing any real enthusiasm for dumping any real enthusiasm on Labour — those million voters are now newspaper coverage of any election since 1955. It's the conduct of the press. The significance of The Sun's backing for Blair was not put on the headlines.

### THE 'NEUTRAL' TABLOIDS

Researchers examined news coverage of the 1997 election. The percentage of stories that calculated each paper's bias index.

Paper	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Other
The Sun	53	33	14	0
The Daily Mail	53	33	14	0
The Express	49	44	7	0
The Daily Telegraph	36	49	15	0
The Independent	18	76	6	0
The Guardian	12	76	12	0
The New York Times	104	134	15	0
The Washington Post	104	134	15	0
The Financial Times	112	112	14	0
The Economist	70	86	4	0
The Wall Street Journal	59	39	2	0
The New York Times	110	110	0	0
The Washington Post	110	110	0	0
The Financial Times	110	110	0	0
The Economist	110	110	0	0
The Wall Street Journal	110	110	0	0
The New York Times	110	110	0	0
The Washington Post	110	110	0	0
The Financial Times	110	110	0	0
The Economist	110	110	0	0
The Wall Street Journal	110	110	0	0







## NEWS

## Tory Eurosceptic ranks swell

More than 120 former Conservative MPs had last night joined the headlong rush to declare their antipathy to a single European currency after being let off the leash by John Major. They include a junior minister who put his job on the line by openly breaching the Government's wait-and-see approach, while a number of other ministers are more covertly letting their constituents know their opposition to monetary union. Page 1

## Hundreds killed in pilgrim camp fires

Up to 300 people were killed and 800 injured yesterday when fires raged through two pilgrim camps on the way to Mecca. Witnesses described mass panic as flames licked through the closely pitched white tents, driven by fierce winds. Page 1

## Ticket to ride

Sir Paul McCartney's daughter Stella was yesterday appointed chief designer at the French fashion house Chloe, succeeding Karl Lagerfeld. Miss McCartney, 25, has designed just three commercial collections. Page 3

## Nurse accused

A nurse murdered her common-law husband by injecting him with insulin so she could inherit his property and marry her lover, a court was told. Page 3

## Mon dieu!

Eric Cantona, the Manchester United football player, refused to be photographed under a giant canvas depicting him as a Christ-like figure. Page 5

## Over the Moon

Chris Moon, who lost his right arm and leg in a landmine blast two years ago, had completed a 143-mile Sahara marathon, defying doctors who told him he would never run again. Page 6

## Reverse leg surgery

Surgeons have saved the life of a six-year-old girl with malignant cancer in a rare operation that involved turning her left leg back to front. Page 6

## Food for thought

Mothers who diet make their daughters eat less, according to an eating habits survey of 400 12-year-old state school girls and their mothers. Page 8

## School up before the beak

Polly the primary school pet was almost a dead duck when the cleaner who was looking after her went on holiday. Magistrates were told how the bird was found without food or clean water in the middle of the summer break. The presiding magistrate said the school in Bracknell, Berkshire, should keep no more pets unless it could look after them. Page 3

## Imperial relics

With the handover of Hong Kong to China at midnight on June 30, Britain will be left with a handful of dependent territories scattered across the globe. Page 16

## St Helena unrest

The governor of St Helena, one of Britain's most isolated dependencies, has left for London amid complaints about his "dictatorial tendencies". Pages 16, 23

## Albania operation

The Italian-led expedition to Albania began in earnest yesterday, as more than 1,000 troops from France, Italy and Spain landed by boat and plane. Page 17

## Royal prose

American newspaper editors were yesterday offered their first look at a weekly column in *The New York Times* co-written by the Duchess of York with an experienced biographer. Page 18

## Yeltsin art gesture

President Yeltsin is expected to make a controversial gesture of reconciliation with Germany today when he returns a work of art looted in 1945. Page 19

## Kinshasa paralysed

Zaire's capital was paralysed for a second day yesterday by strikes and a failed "motorised march" planned by opposition leaders who spread a layer of absurdity over a dangerously volatile Kinshasa. Page 19



Fitz, the bulldog star of Labour's election broadcast, with Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign manager, in London yesterday

## BUSINESS

**Mary Quant:** The Sixties fashion icon is lending her charms to House of Fraser, the dowdy dame of high street retailing. Page 29

**British Telecom:** Shareholders approved the group's planned £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long distance telephone company. Page 29

**Sterling:** The pound's index against a basket of trading currencies closed above 100 for the first time since its removal from the European exchange rate mechanism in the Autumn of 1992. Page 29

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 Index rose 35.1 points to close at 4286.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.4 to 100.1 after a rise from \$1.6223 to \$1.6252 and from DM2.7960 to DM2.8183. Page 32

## SPORT

**Simon Barnes:** There is one certain thing about every champion, every exceptional person who ever dominated a sport, and who compelled the obedience, the serial defeat, of everyone else in the game — ultimate defeat, ultimate failure. Page 53

**Cricket:** On the opening day of the season Jonathan Lewis scored an undefeated double century for Durham against Oxford University in the Parks. Paul Collingwood made 107. Page 54

**Football:** Given their exhausting end-of-season programme, it is tempting to dismiss Middlesbrough's prospects for the Coca-Cola Cup final replay against Leicester City. Page 56

## ARTS

**Youth triumphant:** Richard Morris follows the progress of the talented youth from London's high-rise estates about to perform *Miracles* at the Albert Hall. Page 37

**Dutch treat:** The Palazzo Grassi, Fiat's cultural flagship in Venice, is the showcase for an exhibition of 20th-century Flemish and Dutch painting. Page 38

**The MP and the PM:** Benedict Nightingale reviews Stephen Churchett's impressive playwriting debut, *Tom and Clem*. Page 39

**Rising star:** Robert Innes-Hopkins, at 27, has already been named Designer of the Year for his work at the Gate and the RSC. He is now working on a film and an installation. Page 39

## TOMORROW

**FILMS**  
Geoff Brown on Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You* and other new releases

## BOOKS

Russell Celyn Jones on Jonathan Keates's stories *Soon to be a Major Motion Picture*

## FEATURES

**Single minded:** After years of research, Jane Shilling has come to the conclusion that, when shopping for clothes, you should never, ever go with anyone else. PLUS: Grace Bradberry on the apron strings of Junya Watanabe. Page 20

**THE PAPERS**  
The ayatollahs have reason to be worried by the EU's decision to suspend its "critical dialogue" with Iran. On the other hand, Rafsanjani's assertion that "the West needs us more than we need the West" contains a kernel of truth: the Europeans do need the Iranian market, and Italy — which has strong interests in Iran — has made clear it hopes the withdrawal of EU ambassadors is "temporary". *La Repubblica*

**Media**  
Brenda Maddox: In the end, all privacy codes fail because every case stands or falls on its merits. Is the intrusion in the public interest? The only all-purpose answer a code can give us is "sometimes". Page 26

**HOMES**  
Side by side: Terraced homes may be the solution to the need for high-density housing. Page 47

## MEDIA

**William Righter,** former Reader in English and Comparative Literature at Warwick University; Timothy Mason, cellist; Andrew Harvey, journalist and charity worker. Page 25

## LABOUR'S SLOGANS

Labour's 'soundbite slogans': election: burying London's past: 'colourised' films: Menuhin on Nigel Kennedy: medical consent: Tewkesbury battlefield: record birthweights: drugs and prisons: Lottery and the Church. Page 23

Preview: Jury service can be bad for your health. *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm).

Review: Matthew Bond on men behaving badly. Pages 50, 51

## British bulldogs

Dame Angela and her colleagues are doing democracy a double service, setting their face against its erosion and providing a real choice now, when it is most needed. Page 23

## Parents and politics

To call Mr Blair "phony" for not much better reason than that it rhymes with "Tory" is less an act of criticism and more a piece of abuse. Page 23

## Work for St Helena

Britain still has world responsibilities; it owes a decent generosity to the subjects whose lives it still controls. Page 23

## SIMON JENKINS

Mr Blair's ideological wanderings during this election are becoming pathological. He seems without any anchor at all. Page 22

## ALAN COREN

Let others dispute the ownership of many lion and toothless bulldog, let others dispatch chickens to do their dirty work, we have the lizard, its voracious little tongue flicks ever in and out, its eager eyes swivel separately and endlessly, missing nothing, and should anyone try to apprehend it, its tail comes off in their hands, freeing it to scuttle off and slither under the nearest stone, to fight another day. Page 22

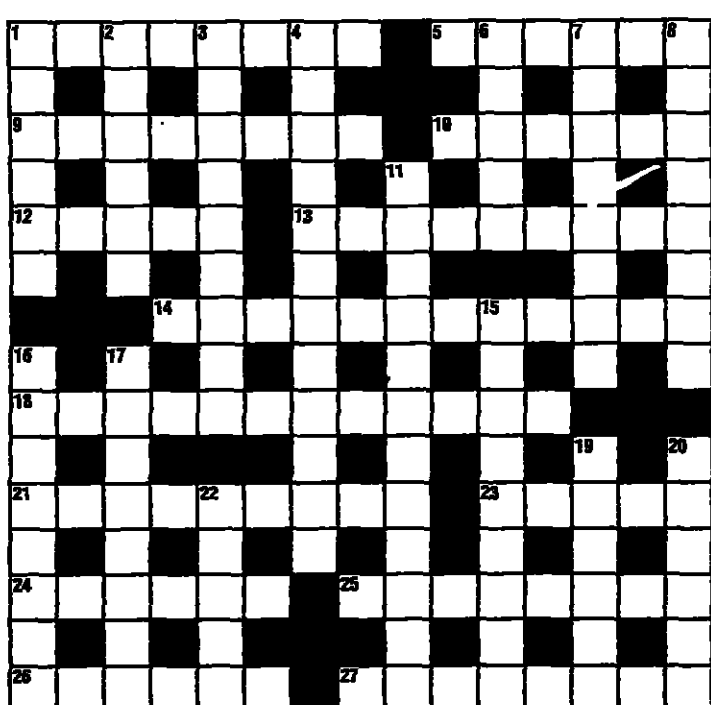
## CRITICISMS

William Righter, former Reader in English and Comparative Literature at Warwick University; Timothy Mason, cellist; Andrew Harvey, journalist and charity worker. Page 25

## LABOUR'S SLOGANS

Labour's 'soundbite slogans': election: burying London's past: 'colourised' films: Menuhin on Nigel Kennedy: medical consent: Tewkesbury battlefield: record birthweights: drugs and prisons: Lottery and the Church. Page 23

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,455



- ACROSS**
- Our price is smashing — one can rake in the money (8).
  - Small bits of dirt in cable reported (6).
  - Speed gets someone well-known bowled out (5).
  - Economise, using fabric with minimum of pleating (6).
  - Caught in country road — puncture (5).
  - Type of instrument showing change around the hour (9).
  - Manage to complete the circle? (4,4).
  - Meddle and give an indication of wanting to row? (3,3,3,2).
  - In the beginning, the Lord erupts without silence? (9).
  - A male, boy? The reverse (5).
  - English legal extract (6).

- DOWN**
- Bone in old burial site, near the end (8).
  - Weapon's untidy ends switched (6).
  - Despatched to one hospital department not anaesthetised? (5).
  - Plant left half cut under pile of nature (6).
  - Gaping fish go up to the top (6).
  - Mineral containing carbon found in unvarnished ceramic (9).
  - Additional account given in exuberant manner (12).
  - See copper on motorway — he may be passing through on a job (5).
  - Notes little brat with matches (8).
  - The month after summer holds a class may be different (8).
  - Garden plant's quality improved (8,4).
  - Insect — it's excited studier of nature (9).
  - Date ship at sea entered anchorage (8).
  - University of solid worth, from what we hear (8).
  - Game or beef? (6).
  - Eastern scholar criticised the thing audibly (6).
  - Sap's first appearing on tree, gluey stuff (5).

**ITALIC DECKHAND**  
R I T H E I S O  
F O O T F A L L U N I O N  
U E L I D I A  
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E A B E L E D  
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C E R R E P  
T R A D E R E T R U S C A  
A S A M T I S R  
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I N I N I N I N I N  
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Times Two Crossword, page 52

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## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Newcastle, Cornwall, 17C (23F); lowest day temp: Fair Isle, 7C (45F); highest night temp: Manchester, 10C (50F); highest sunrise: Farnborough, Cornwall, 12.26.

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# THE TIMES

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Why terrace homes  
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Universities given  
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cricket's first day  
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WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

Fiscal squeezes 'unsustainable'

## Euro doubts push pound to five-year high

By ALASDAIR MURRAY in FRANKFURT and OLIVER AUGUST in LONDON

THE pound soared to its highest level for nearly five years yesterday as the fore-runner to Europe's central bank voiced new doubts over Europe's monetary union.

Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute, said the chances of the single currency proceeding on schedule in 1999 were only "significantly above 50 per cent".

He also buttressed growing concern about the status of the single European currency by confirming that the institute would not insist on candidates to join the new euro meeting all the tests laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

The pound was the main beneficiary on the markets, where traders assume it will not join in from the start. This puts further strain on Britain's monetary policy, since any rise in interest rates to forestall domestic inflation is likely to push sterling up further and hit UK manufacturers.

Sterling breached the 100 mark on its trade-weighted index for the first time since Black Wednesday in 1992 as it continued to storm past the world's other big currencies. By the Bank of England close, it had regained its 1990 par value at 100.1. Sterling pushed up from 2.7960 marks to DM2.8183 in London. It was also strong against the dollar, which dropped 0.34 cents to \$1.6257 after news of a small rise in US inflation.

The EMI said that too many

EU countries are relying on unsustainable measures to cut government debt to levels demanded by the Maastricht Treaty. He said delay in implementing a single currency "could wreck the whole programme" by allowing member states to lose this painful budgetary discipline.

In its third annual report, the EMI also launched a stinging attack on the European Union's "dismal" job creation record, warning that unemployment could pose a serious threat to the success of a single currency. It urged cuts in labour costs and labour market reforms. Otherwise,

the EMI argues, divergent unemployment records could place a major strain on the single currency.

The EMI, which is due to become the European Central Bank at the beginning of 1999, is charged with preparing a report early next year on the suitability of candidates for monetary union.

M. Lamfalussy suggested that it would be taking a broad view, despite warnings from Britain and Germany that the convergence tests contained in the Maastricht Treaty must be strictly applied for a single currency to succeed.

He said that the Maastricht Treaty allows room for some deviation from the conver-

gence targets, although he added that the sustainability of an individual government's fiscal position would need to be proven.

M. Lamfalussy refused to be drawn about which countries might fail to meet the criteria, despite heavy criticism about the long-term durability of measures adopted by countries such as Italy and Belgium to reduce their deficit and debt ratios.

M. Lamfalussy said that final decisions would only be taken in a year's time on the basis of data for the whole of 1997.

Nick Stamenkovic, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said: "The EMI's latest annual report has raised concern about the fiscal position in Europe, in general, and in Germany."

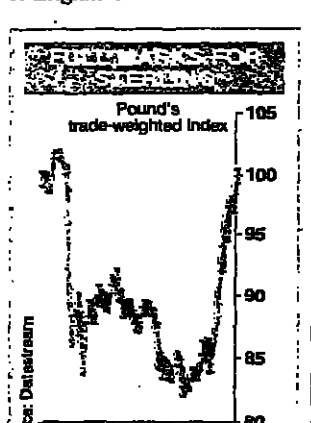
Jörg Krämer at Merrill Lynch said: "The Bundesbank should have started to hike interest rates in the autumn of last year."

The pound's continued rise will add to the headaches of British exporters who already complain about being squeezed out of international markets at current sterling prices.

An immediate UK interest rate increase, which would boost sterling further, looks less likely after the sterling hike. Figures for producer prices, released on Monday, show that sterling's recovery last autumn has already subdued any inflation pressures from industry.

City analysts said that, whoever is Chancellor after the election will want to protect exporters from further damaging exchange rate movements, hoping that domestic inflationary pressures will be choked off by the rising pound.

Further rises in sterling would, however, pose a problem for Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, if he reached the Treasury. Market traders assume that, in order to establish his credibility, Mr Brown would raise base rates a week after taking office, following his first head-to-head meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.



Being Americanised, page 33



Mary Quant, whose cosmetics empire makes royalties of about £160 million a year

## Quant to join House of Fraser board

By JON ASHWORTH

MARY QUANT, the fashion icon who put the swing in the King's Road, is lending her charms to House of Fraser, the dowdy old dame of high street retailing.

Ms Quant, 63, becomes a non-executive director of the department stores group, which takes in Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones. Her first shop, Bazaar, opened in Chelsea in 1955 and gave birth to the era of mini-skirts, white PVC raincoats, and skinny-rib polo-neck sweaters.

There are those who suspect that House of Fraser is out of step with the times. The company has struggled to find its way since the Fayed brothers unleashed it on the stock market three years ago. The shares, floated at 180p, were up 4p at 164p yesterday, before tomorrow's publication of the 1996 results. House of Fraser announced in January that it was to cut 1,000 jobs and clear out unwanted stock in an attempt to become competitive.

Ms Quant's arrival could herald a much-needed face-lift. Her cosmetics empire sells through more than 200 outlets in Japan alone, and makes about £160 million a year in royalties.

Brian McGowan, chairman of House of Fraser, said: "Her experience of the fashion and retail business worldwide, gained over many years, will be of immense value and help to House of Fraser, a leader in UK fashion and cosmetics."

Ms Quant issued a statement, saying: "House of Fraser has progressive ideas for the growth of their stores, and I look forward to making a positive contribution to the group's future success."

Pennington, page 31

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES	
FTSE 100	4286.8 (+35.1)
Yield	3.77%
FTSE All share	2084.18 (+14.18)
Nikkei	17933.59 (+241.12)
New York	
Dow Jones	6540.50 (+88.70)
S&P Composite	752.33 (+8.80)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 1/8% (8 1/8%)
Yield	7.08% (7.17%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6 1/8% (6 1/8%)
Life long gilt future (Jun)	100% (100 1/8%)

## STERLING

	1.6255*	(1.6203)
New York		
\$	1.6254	(1.6227)
DM	2.8183	(2.7964)
FF	9.4775	(9.4047)
SP	2.3915	(2.3825)
Yen	205.34	(205.00)
\$ Index	100.1	(99.4)

US DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.7335* (1.7305)
FF	5.8250* (5.8210)
SP	1.4695* (1.4710)
Yen	128.32* (128.58)
\$ Index	106.1 (106.0)

Tokyo close Yen 126.10

BRITISH SEA OIL

Brant 15-day (Jun) \$18.20 (\$18.40)

GOLOS

London close \$341.75 (\$348.55)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Mutual friends

A majority of members of Bristol & West and Northern Rock yesterday voted in favour of their societies abandoning mutualism, although there was anger at both meetings. Page 30

## British boost

Peugeot, the French car maker, gave British industry a £100 million vote of confidence by announcing that it will build a new supermini in Coventry, safeguarding almost 3,000 jobs. Page 35

## BT investors back £13bn MCI deal

By ERIC REGULY

BT MOVED a step closer to becoming a global telecommunications powerhouse yesterday when shareholders overwhelmingly approved the £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long-distance phone company.

BT said that about 98.5 per cent of shareholders voted in favour. The enlarged company, to be called Concert, awaits regulatory approval in America and Europe. MCI shareholders approved the deal earlier this month.

Concert will emerge as the world's fourth largest telecoms group, behind NTT of Japan, AT&T of America and Deutsche Telekom. BT and MCI have an estimated 6 per cent share of the global market. But outside the US and UK only 17 per cent of the market is open to competition, a figure that probably will rise to more than 90 per cent by the

turn of the century. Sir Iain Vallance, the BT chairman who is to become co-chairman of Concert, said: "Were we to do nothing more than hold on to that 6 per cent, Concert would have revenues of £34 billion within a few years."

BT has owned 20 per cent of MCI since 1994 and is paying a premium of about 30 per cent for the rest. BT has said the merger will initially dilute earnings by about 5 per cent and will yield savings of £1.5 billion in the first five years by combining certain operations.

Analysts are divided about the merger benefits. Robert Fleming, the broker, said it is sceptical about Concert's forecasts of a 6 per cent annual dividend rise when severe competition is slashing the prices of international calls. BT closed 2 1/2 p up, at 440 1/2.

Being Americanised, page 33

## Brokers face levy on society deals

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

CRESTCO, the operator of Crest, the Stock Exchange's paperless trading system, is to penalise stockbrokers who ignore its attempts to avert a potential settlement crisis brought on by windfall shares from five demutualising building societies.

Last month CrestCo announced it would allow stockbrokers to batch 100 deals in converting societies into one trade. Yesterday it said that from Monday, the date of the Alliance & Leicester flotation, it would charge £1 for every unbatched deal put through Crest on top of its normal 75p levy. A spokesman said the "cost disincentive" would be increased if the broking community did not comply.

The move follows confirmation yesterday that 1.1 million of its members had opted to hold free shares in the company in

certificate form. If repeated in the flotations of the Halifax, Woolwich, Norwich Union and Northern Rock it would create 8.7 million new share certificates. This would pose a severe strain on Crest, which works best with electronic nominee systems that dispense with certificates.

Shares in Alliance & Leicester are forecast to reach between 460p and 480p at a series of auctions to institutional investors starting this Friday. Analysts are waiting to see how they perform before pricing the remaining demutualisations.

The Stock Exchange has prevented an unofficial grey market in demutualisation shares on the grounds that they are not offers in the way of the privatisations of the 1980s.

Mutuality ended, page 30

Formal move by watchdog on disciplinary proceedings

## SFA to detail complaints on Fidelity

By ROBERT MILLER

A SENIOR City watchdog is to take the unprecedented step of detailing the number of complaints received by investors about Fidelity Brokerage, the retail stockbroking arm of the world's largest fund manager.

Last October, the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which polices brokers and futures traders, took the highly unusual step of banning Fidelity Brokerage, which has 30,000 clients, from signing up new investors until the end of January.

The ban was then extended to the end of this month. Last night SFA

officials said that no decision had yet been taken on whether the sanctions on new business would be lifted within the next two weeks.

In the forthcoming issue of its Briefing magazine the SFA will set out in detail the complaints received from aggrieved Fidelity clients, many of whom suffered losses because of administrative mistakes and have been compensated. The SFA, which regulates 1,350 City firms, says that in the first nine months of its current financial year to the end of December nearly a third of the 634 complaints received concerned Fidelity Brokerage. The SFA has now taken formal steps

"to initiate disciplinary proceedings" against the broking firm. This could result in action being taken against some senior individuals. More likely, however, is that the firm will incur a fine based on the time it has taken to clear up the problems that began last May when it switched to a new computer and administrative system at the same time as launching a major advertising campaign for new clients. Many dividend cheques failed to be credited to the right bank accounts at the correct time.

The SFA action against Fidelity Brokerage is an embarrassment for its parent company, owned by the Ameri-

can family of Edward C. Johnson III. It has sought to build a worldwide reputation for prudent fund management on behalf of millions of pension fund clients and investors.

In financial terms the SFA ban has meant that Fidelity Brokerage has just missed out on the rush at the end of last year to invest in personal equity plans. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this season was one of the busiest on record.

Phil West, a Fidelity Brokerage manager, said yesterday: "The SFA review procedure has not been completed and we do not want to prejudice the issue. However, we are pleased with the progress made so far."

## ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR LIFE ASSURANCE?

There are many Banks, Building Societies, and Insurance Companies offering to arrange for you their own company's policies.

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Male & Female both aged 35 next birthday and non-smokers		Male & Female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers	
Barclays Life	35.40	Commercial Union	75.00
Commercial Union	36.00	Nationwide Life	83.50
Nationwide Life	37.81	Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	41.58	Friends Provident	88.99
Black Horse Life	46.38	Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	48.00	Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	58.51	Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for	25.02	We can arrange this for	53.30

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□ European fears for the Old Lady □ Spending building society windfalls □ Elephant-hunting at House of Fraser

## Referendum Party Eddie

AS BEFTIS an organisation whose main proponents include Geoffrey Boycott and Frederick Forsyth, the level of debate put forward by the Referendum Party has rarely risen much above the waterline. After all this

growing on about the influence of Brussels, Sir James and his crew should sing a different tune. How about domination by Frankfurt?

If ammunition is needed it was provided yesterday by the annual report of the European Monetary Institute. In Referendum terms, this could be categorised as a German-based body barking instructions about how everyone should run their economies so they can fit in with some Euro masterplan to let our sovereign currencies be subsumed by the almighty mark. In reality, the EMI is telling off Germany as much as any other country. But even vociferous Eurosceptics can see a worrying issue arising about the role of the Bank of England after monetary union.

As the EMI made quite clear yesterday, it will be the body in charge of monetary policy across Europe. It will have a relatively small staff, so it will devolve responsibility for operating monetary policy within the individual European states to the

central banks. But doesn't that mean that the grand old Bank of England will be turned into little more than the banking equivalent of a McDonald's franchise? It will hire the staff, cook the burgers and serve them, but the recipe will be written by Frankfurt. Is this a dignified role for our central bank?

And just when the mandarins at Threadneedle Street thought prospects could not get any bleaker, along comes Alastair Darling, Labour's man in the City. Brandishing the Treasury Select Committee report into the Baring scandal — which accused the Bank of being too close to the financial institutions it regulates — Mr Darling appears to want to shake up financial regulation in a way that does not favour the Bank. Mr Darling is in favour of the twin peaks approach that does away with the old fashioned division of financial institutions into banks and securities firms and instead frames regulation by reference to the intended customer. Selling to

the general public will be heavily regulated, but selling to professional investors will have a lighter touch. Mr Darling is also in favour of getting rid of the self-regulatory organisations and giving more power to the Securities and Investments Board. In his vision there will be only one regulator in town and that looks like being the SIB not the Bank.

The Bank has been a key influence on British finance for 303 years. In the next five, it could lose most of its power. It's enough to make Eddie George vote for the Referendum Party.

### Pinning hopes on a nation of parasites

HAS that longed-for feeling of financial wellbeing at last bathed Middle England in a golden sweat? Or have we just become a nation of serial parasites?

Up to 16 million people, subject to some extravagant double-counting, will soon be able to make their choice as recipients of



the windfalls of demutualisation. Judging by the latest returns from Alliance & Leicester Building Society, first of the current batch, a quarter of them might take the cash straight away.

When Abbey National pioneered conversion, amid much scepticism, only a quarter had sold after 12 months. Surveys suggested only 10-15 per cent of the customers of Halifax et al would have nothing to do with the stock market.

Faster sales make wonderful news for financial institutions, many of which feel obliged to stock up on the shares as soon as possible. If they can buy lots of

A&L via auctions of unwanted shares, they will not after all have to pay through the nose.

Forecasts of early prices are sagging, making it less than certain that A&L will leap straight into the FT-SE 100 share index. That is bad news for the majority who want to stay on even if, as one broker tastefully claimed, the chance of A&L avoiding takeover is "as likely as a 2nd lieutenant surviving the First World War".

The more pressing issue is what pocketers do with their cash. When the economy seemed to sag last year, some economists hoped windfalls would boost consumer spending, perhaps by paying down credit card debt to replenish spending power. Buoyant consumer spending is now a bit of a worry, so other economists predict that windfalls will not be spent. Even shares cashed immediately, they argue, will be deposited in other building societies to earn new windfalls.

Such mercenary behaviour may well prevail over the desire

to buy goods now. Unless Gordon Brown courts loathing by taxing this other windfall, as he probably should, the economy will have to wait for the shock.

### How quaint to choose Quant

DEBENHAMS has Jasper Conran and Philip Treacy, Dorothy Perkins is in partnership with Clements Ribeiro and even dear old Marks & Spencer is linked with Ghost and Betty Jackson. So who is House of Fraser inviting on to its board in the hope of attracting the fashionable younger audience it needs to revitalise its flagging stores? Mary Quant.

The cloud that engulfed House of Fraser last year is not lifting, despite a management shake-out instituted by John "Texas" Coleman. You could go elephant hunting in many of the stores without hitting a customer and tomorrow's results are not likely to inspire. If sales for the year

have risen in money terms, then it will be little more than a mirage and they are sure to have shrunk when inflation is subtracted. Massive provisions may have removed the stock problem — but only in accounting terms.

So what is to be done? Fraser is not winning the customers it needs and Sixties star Ms Quant cannot be relied on to attract them. The store portfolio is being pruned but if the product mix is not right, does it matter? Hopes of a bid have faded, along with the fortunes of the City's favourite bidder, Sears. The market should have spotted it was being sold a pup when Fraser was floated. As they say in Taiton, never accept a present from Mohamed Al Fayed.

### Danish best

STANDARD & POORS, the US credit analyst, has assigned an unbeatable AAA rating to loans raised to finance the Baltic's Oresund link between Sweden and Denmark. How different from our own dear Eurotunnel link between Britain and France. But the Oresundskonsortiet loan is guaranteed by governments at each end, an arrangement banned from the Channel lest it led to cost overruns. How wise.

## LucasVarity policy change rattles market

By PAUL DURMAN

ALMOST ten million shares in LucasVarity changed hands yesterday as the brakes and car electronics group confirmed that it is cutting its annual dividend.

The company, formed from a £3.2 billion merger in September, intends to supplement its dividend by regularly buying back shares in the market. This year it plans to buy in 3 per cent, or about 44 million, of its shares.

LucasVarity said it has no plans to change its cumbersome name because completion of the integration of the two businesses is of greater priority.

Neil Arnold, finance director, said LucasVarity expects to make a total distribution to shareholders, including dividends, of about £150 million. This is 50 per cent more than the £100 million it would have paid out if it had maintained the 7p-a-share dividend paid last year by Lucas Industries, the British half of the combine.

The dividend will fall to 4.5p a share for the year to January 1998. For the period just

ended, LucasVarity will pay a dividend of 2.25p on July 1.

Investment funds that seek income are expected to sell their holdings in LucasVarity, or risk falling short of their income target. The company's shares closed 2.5p lower at 198p yesterday, having initially run as high as 206p.

The change in dividend policy is driven by tax considerations. LucasVarity does not make enough money in the UK to make full use of the relief for advance corporation tax.

LucasVarity's first results since its merger showed an operating profit of £336 million on sales of £4.6 billion — a 5 per cent rise on the pro forma total from Lucas and Varity separately in the previous year. Pre-tax profits for the year to January 31, before restructuring costs, were £282 million.

The group has set aside £250 million for restructuring that has cost 3,000 jobs at a cost of £105 million. It is seeking buyers for 13 businesses. The changes will save £120 million a year, although the full benefit will not be felt for two years.

### N Brown abandons the hunt

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

N BROWN, the home shopping company that last month broke off talks with Sears about buying its Freemans mail order arm, has abandoned its quest for a large acquisition.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £37.1 million in the year to March 1, compared to £31.2 million a year earlier. Sales grew 21.5 per cent to £280.5 million, helped by a large increase in first-time customers. In the first six weeks of this year, sales grew a further 15 per cent.

Sir David Alliance, chairman, said he is not interested in making acquisitions for their own sake. "We could have bought Freemans," he said, "but we would only do it if it were to improve shareholder value." However, he added that smaller bolt-on acquisitions are still likely.

Earnings per share rose from 14.42p to 17.03p. A final dividend of 4.8p (4.6p) will be paid on July 25, giving a full-year 6.8p (5.7p).

Tempus, page 32

### Reckitt puts the record straight

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products multinational, has been forced to amend its 1995 accounts after objections were raised by the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

Reckitt initially overvalued its £1 billion acquisition of America's L&F Products at the end of 1994 and then subsequently cut the fair value in its accounts by £81 million to £726 million. But it failed to explain this to shareholders.

The review panel ruled that Reckitt had failed to comply with FRSA, the accounting standard covering acquisitions and mergers. In doing so, it had also failed to comply fully with requirements of the Companies Act 1985.

The panel has powers to take companies to court and oblige them to issue new accounts, but agreed that Reckitt could issue a note making good the omission in its 1995 accounts with its 1996 accounts. These were sent to shareholders yesterday.

### McCann departs in Servisair shake-up

By FRASER NELSON

SERVISAIR, the aircraft maintenance company that joined the stock market two years ago, has announced a boardroom shake-up and the departure of Tony McCann as executive chairman.

Mr McCann, who was paid £133,000 for a three-day week, was said to have left to pursue his other business interests. He leaves with share options currently worth £570,000.

The move comes just two weeks after the company part-

ed company with David Collier, who only 18 months previously had been appointed development manager — an appointment which, according to Mr McCann, "just didn't work out".

Mr McCann, 56, will now be replaced by John Willis, currently chief executive. A replacement for Mr Willis is expected to be named by the summer. The company's shares gained 9p yesterday to close at 453p.



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STOCKMARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# American inflation figures cheer UK and US markets

EVIDENCE that inflationary pressures are easing cheered investors on both sides of the Atlantic. In London, prices wiped out Monday's losses to close just below their best levels of the day.

The FT-SE 100 index finished up 35.1 at 2,868.8, encouraged by a near 100-point rally by the Dow Jones industrial average at the start of trading in New York following a smaller than expected rise in US inflation.

Trading in London, however, remained thin with just 787.9 million shares changing hands. Early attention focused on BT, 2 1/2p firmer at 440 1/2, as shareholders gave their approval for the proposed £13 billion merger with MCI to form Comcast. It will be the biggest deal in British corporate history.

ScotishPower, 1 1/2p firmer at 381 1/2, came out with top marks in NatWest Securities' latest *Utility Watch*. Despite the prospect of windfall levies and other tax charges being imposed at some stage, dividend growth should comfortably exceed the rest of the market. Others to go better included Northern Ireland Electricity, 12 1/2p to 380p, National Power, 5 1/2p to 540 1/2, Scottish Hydro, 5 1/2p to 392 1/2, and Southern Electric, 6p to 434 1/2.

The banking sector received a welcome boost from Lehman Brothers yesterday with the publication of its *UK Clearing Banks 1997 Annual Review*. The 169-page tome predicts that the sector's re-rating will continue, with all the bull factors that have supported prices in the past five years still in place. Lehman said: "All that has changed is that the share prices are higher."

The Lehman banking team has given pride of place this year to Lloyds TSB, up 7p to 513 1/2, as the "prime domestic recommendation" and a share that the shares could justify a £10 stock price in 1999. Others to find favour included HSBC, up 3 1/2p to £15.19, Royal Bank of Scotland, 11 1/2p firmer at 533 1/2, Standard Chartered, 19 1/2p higher at 847p, Abbey National, up 5p to 790p, and Bank of Scotland, 6 1/2p better at 319 1/2.

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks giant, fell 2 1/2p to 847 1/2p after a mild profit downgrade by Goldman Sachs, the US securities house. It has cut its numbers



Watermark, up 6p, has high hopes in the Miss World contest

by £8 million to £992 million, blaming currency factors.

Shield Diagnostics touched 635p before closing 12 1/2p better at 620p as the company began a series of presentations for fund managers arranged by UBS, its new broker.

Growing optimism about the outlook for Dermagraft, its new skin treatment, put an early 3p on Smith & Nephew

effect. The shares responded with a rise of 14 1/2p to 380 1/2p.

Great Universal Stores continued to make headway, rising 19p to 652 1/2p after this week's £180 million acquisition of Direct Marketing Technology in the US.

A positive trading statement lifted Capita Group 5 1/2p to 687 1/2p in a thin market. Rod Aldridge, chairman, told

CITY speculators have started calling time on Century Inns, the fast growing pub operator, which last month splashed out almost £10 million on 65 tenanted houses. Word is Whitbread, which has expansion plans of its own, may have given the company a close look. At these levels, Century is valued at £72 million.

to 181 1/2p. The latest trial report on the artificial skin product proved to be positive.

The company is now applying for approval to market Dermagraft.

An update by Chiroscience on Phase 3 trials being conducted on Levobupivacaine, its new local anaesthetic, proved upbeat. It is reputed to require lower dosages and thereby reduces the risk of side

shareholders that trading in the first quarter was substantially ahead.

On AIM, shares in Watermark, the marketing services group headed by John Caulcutt, rose 6p to 34p after it saw profits more than double last year and having secured the rights to manage the Miss World competition later this year in the Seychelles. The group hopes it

will be a lucrative affair, with profits accruing from the television rights and promotional activities. Watermark joined AIM in July last year at 15p and is paying its first dividend of 0.5p.

One of the best performances yesterday was in Optometries, with the price more than doubling from 11p to 22 1/2p. This follows an announcement late on Monday that certain directors had agreed to dispose of 5.4 million shares, or 53 per cent of the company, at 16 1/2p to "certain places". One of them is reckoned to be Peter Levine, deputy chairman of Severfield Reeve, who is heading up a consortium of investors. On completion of the sale, Mr Levine is expected to be appointed chairman.

Eycare Products dipped 1 1/2p to 13p on learning that Andre Cohen had resigned after a boardroom dispute over the company's future.

Alexon, the retailer, firmed 1 1/2p to 196 1/2p, unperturbed by the decision of John Osborn, chief executive, to exercise an option on 200,000 shares at 65 1/2p before selling them at 67 1/2p. Sir John Nott, the former Defence Minister, has sold more than half his stake in Hillsdown Holdings, where he is chairman. The 43,399 shares were sold at 194 1/2p. Hillsdown closed 2 1/2p dearer at 197 1/2p.

GILT-EDGED: Prices in London took their lead from positive performances by both US Treasury bonds and German bunds. Gains stretched to more than £1 at the longer end as investors anxiously awaited today's employment and earnings numbers.

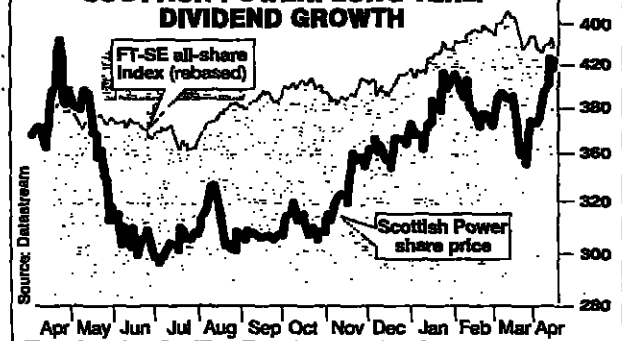
The Bank of England says it plans to issue £2 billion of existing tax Treasury 7 per cent 2002 in next week's auctions. Brokers had been expecting the bank to issue £2.5 billion of extra stock.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed £2 1/2p higher at £109 1/2, as the total number of contracts completed reached 67,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 soared £1 1/2 to £103 1/2, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1 1/2 better at £102 1/2.

NEW YORK: Blue chips held on to most of the morning's gains, though technology shares slid after poor earnings news from Intel Corp. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 88.70 points higher at 6,540.60.

## SCOTTISH POWER: LONG TERM DIVIDEND GROWTH



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## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 6540.60 (+88.70)  
S&P Composite 752.33 (+6.80)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 17933.94 (+241.13)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 12342.02 (+46.00)

Amsterdam:  
EEX Index 736.37 (+20.10)

Sydney:  
AO 2381.7 (+15.00)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 3337.68 (+47.70)

Singapore:  
Straits 2032.97 (+1.80)

Brussels:  
General 11933.89 (+160.09)

Paris:  
CAC 40 2630.83 (+54.50)

Zurich:  
SIX 976.70 (+14.40)

London:  
FT 30 2868.8 (+35.1)

FTSE 100 2868.8 (+35.1)

FTSE 250 4521.7 (+15.9)

FTSE 350 2112.6 (+15.2)

FTSE 400 1472.0 (+8.8)

FTSE 500 204.16 (+14.9)

FTSE Non Financials 214.54 (+12.8)

FTSE Financials 116.59 (+10.9)

FTSE 100 Dividend 41.01 (+0.57)

Bargains 4193

SEAQ Volume 787,969

German Mark 1.8183 (+0.0023)

Exchange Index 100.1 (+0.7)

Bank of England official rate (4p)

LIBOR 1.572

RPI 155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

RPIX 154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Aurora Int Trust 100

Aviation Oil 86 1/2

Aviva Europe 139 + 2

Bickerton 39 + 2

Cambridge Antibody 585 + 5

Charlton Athletic 58 + 2

Close Bros Pro VCT 98

Diagnostix 323 + 10

Donatronics 72

Harvey Nash 205

Heal's 212 1/2

Helfphing Group 148

Methven's 114

Murray VCT 2 (100) 122

Newcastle Unit 127

Northstar Secs 28 1/2

Oxford Tech Venture 95

Pathfinder Properties 22 1/2

Presbury Leisure 2 1/2

Q Group 115 1/2

Silberberg 15 1/2

Stir Heights 107 1/2

United Overseas Grp 60

Whitehead Mann 147 1/2

Worldwide 155

RIGHTS ISSUES

Blouin n/p (9) 22 1/2

Edge Props n/p (135) 16 1/2

Lumina n/p (320) 50 1/2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISBS: 170p (+25p)

Scotia 430p (+32p)

AIM 548p (+32p)

Chiroscience 380p (+14p)

J Leopold 490p (+15p)

Air London 244p (+14p)

Concorde 231p (+13p)

Imovision 326p (+14p)

Black Leisure 437p (+18p)

FALLS:

James Finlay 95p (-9p)

DFS Furniture 303p (-22p)

Photobank 502p (-10p)

MEPC 485p (-8p)

BP Bulmer 569p (-10p)

Hess 789p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 34

## TEMPUS

### Short-circuited

FRANTIC share trading left LucasVariety, the car electricals and components group, looking weak. Doubtless some income funds were less keen to own shares in the car parts group after its US management decided to slash the dividend and replace part of the cash payout with a programme of share buybacks. On fiscal grounds, LucasVariety's plans have sense. The company's UK earnings are insufficient to generate a tax bill high enough to offset against the advance corporation tax (ACT) on its dividend. American shareholders prefer share buybacks and such a policy does not aggravate the £90 million ACT problem.

The worry is that a commitment to buybacks will be less exact (and less exacting) than dividend payments. LucasVariety, of course, sees only a future of rising profits and strengthening cash flow. But such a sanguine

view of future trading hardly bears consideration given the recent problems of US motor manufacturers. A profits slump accompanied by a hike in interest rates would consign buybacks to the bin.

Big fans of the fashionable concept of economic value added, the LucasVariety bosses are therefore likely to be big borrowers. However, for UK institutions dividend payments have become a key measure of company value and for mature funds, a means of matching their pension liabilities. They are unlikely to abandon dividends for the sake of business school theory. Moreover, a change in corporate taxation by a new government could remove some of the advantages to heavily indebted balance sheets. American investors will need big pockets to absorb further selling from UK institutions.

## Oil exploration

INVESTORS in UK oil exploration stocks are beginning to look like passengers on the Titanic. Since January, the price of a barrel of Brent Crude has fallen from \$25 per barrel to below \$18 but over the same period the shares of oil exploration companies have gone from strength to strength. More worrying still is a comparison with the American oil sector, where share prices have suffered a healthy setback after a 28 per cent fall in the price of crude oil.

Why have their British cousins escaped punishment? The battle between Gulf Canada and Clyde Petroleum early in the year added some froth to valuations but no further bids emerged. Indeed, the high ratings have probably deterred predators. In the UK, the sector is valued at a

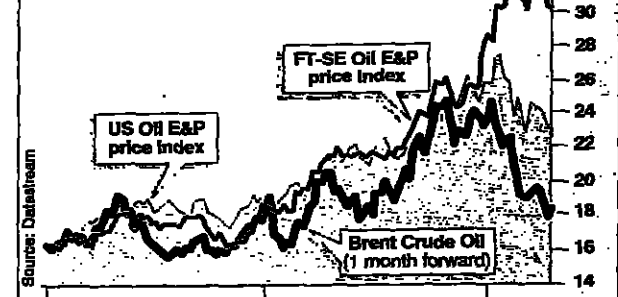
## 25 per cent premium to its net asset value with the more

racy stocks, such as British Borene, priced by the market at almost three times their net worth.

There lies the problem: investors in companies like Cairn Energy and British Borene are speculating on the success of the next well, or in the case of British

Borene, probably the next deal. While oil price expectations will affect the value of additions to Cairn's reserves, it is not material when gambling on an extra 2 trillion cubic feet of gas. But the earnings and cash flow of core exploration stocks such as Enterprise Oil will be hurt by lower oil prices and investors should take note.

## THE GAP WIDENS



## N Brown

N BROWN'S grander ambitions have been curbed by circumstances beyond its control, but it would be a mistake to dismiss the company as a frustrated might-have-been.

Attempts to enter the big time through a takeover of the Littlewoods home shopping business and, more recently, a bid for Freemans, led N Brown nowhere. Littlewoods spurned the overtures and Sears wanted too much money for Freemans.

N Brown is left pointing its gun at an empty horizon and it said yesterday that it will concentrate on organic growth. Fortunately, this is one of the company's strengths. Few companies have such a consistent record of growing sales and profits.

The only caveat is that N Brown's market is set for considerable upheaval. Marks & Spencer is planning, for next year, its first foray into catalogue sales of its adult clothing ranges. Burton also plans

to launch catalogues and GUS could make a serious move to tackle the direct market. These threats cannot be ignored, but growth of the home shopping market as a whole should provide enough room for expansion, and N Brown has the advantage of being established and well-liked by its customers. As yet, there is no reason for it to look to its laurels.

## MEPC

IN SPITE OF all the mud flung at MEPC after the disclosure of bid talks with Hamam, the company has not lost its ability to do interesting deals. Last April, MEPC bought a factory outlet shopping centre in Newcastle and yesterday it acquired the Clarks portfolio for £80 million. Together, the assets are worth about £100 million, and MEPC is keen to lift its share, currently 30 per cent, of this thriving sub-sector of the retail property market.

From a property perspective, factory outlets may look like boring retail sheds, but with one important distinction - the retailers have every incentive to restrict their supply. Typically, they sell marked-down designer clothes, occasionally seconds but more often slow-moving stock or last year's fashions. Lowish rents in out-of-town locations mean that retailers can slash their gross margin and still make a decent return. However, the notion of a bargain is crucial to the draw, and having too many factory outlets would not only erode high street full-price sales but diminish the value of the designer's brand.

For two industries (property and retailing) prone to boom-and-bust excess, this is an excellent discipline. MEPC has no intention of developing factory outlet sites but is keen to acquire more and could be a home for BAA's factory outlet investment if the latter chose to sell.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

## COMMODITIES

ICE-LOR (London & OTC)

CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical 17.45 -0.20

Brent 15 day (May) 18.20 -0.20

WTI Intermediate (May) 19.30 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Jul) 19.30 -0.05

Naphtha 14.10 -0.02

Volume: 5942

ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$/lb)

May 1875-1875 340 -1575-1575

Jul 1895-1895 340 -1575-1575

Nov 1895-1895 340 -1575-1575

Nov 1895-1895 340 -1575-1575

Nov 1895-1895 340 -1575-1575

Nov 1895-1895 340 -1575-1575

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# THE TIMES

## CITY DIARY

### Challenge to NatWest board

RORY MURPHY, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, is trying to unseat one of his bosses from the bank's board. He is standing for election to the board of directors, in an effort to gain more influence for workers.

Murphy, who pledged to redirect any remuneration earned, if elected, to the staff association, wants to ensure that workers are not affected by the recent £90 million black hole that was discovered in the bank's books. The current directors, standing for re-election, who have the full backing of the board, include Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, and Martin Owen, the chief executive of NatWest Markets, who took a £200,000 cut in his bonus in the wake of the mispricing affair. Murphy will put the issue to the vote at the group's annual meeting next Tuesday.

**COMMISSIONER** to John Carter, chief executive of Commercial Union, who kept himself upright at yesterday's annual meeting by balancing on crutches. Resplendent in a smart grey suit, with a plaster cast up to one knee, Carter's injury is the result of a "sports accident".



Tony Hales can expect £10,000 a year at Villa

### Hales for Villa

TONY HALES, the soccer crazy chief executive of Allied Domecq, is joining the board at Aston Villa Football Club. To make time for his new appointment, Hales stood down yesterday as a non-executive director of Hyder, after four years at the water company, where he picked up £25,000 per annum. A lifelong supporter of the premiership club, currently preparing for a stock market flotation, he can expect to earn £10,000 a year in his new role. Until he takes up the position at the end of this year, his fee will be redirected to Allied Domecq. In reference to my earlier story about Hales' football tour in Spain with 16 youngsters in tow, I am told that the opposing teams had clearly spent more time in training.

### Fish rent

THE Lord Mayor swapped his customary breakfast fry-up for Dover sole yesterday. At the crack of dawn, accompanied by six members of the ancient Company of Watermen and Lightermen, Alderman Roger Cork sailed from Mansion House to Billingsgate Market, to hand over the annual rent for the fish market, which is set at "one fish per annum" to the Corporation of London. The Lord Mayor, however, stopped short of touching the fish. A spokesperson of London's Corporation said: "He was shaking a lot of hands, and it wouldn't have been terribly nice."

### Lamb turns horse

A BLACK horse attended yesterday's Lloyds TSB annual meeting in Edinburgh. Two members of the quaintly named Lamb, Lloyds and Midland Bank Boycott, gained admittance to the meeting as a pantomime horse, on the ground that they were shareholders.

MORAG PRESTON

## Eric Reguly on the Americanisation of business

Mixing British and foreign companies can be dangerous — for the Brits that is. The marriage of equals rarely is that; even when a British company buys a foreign company of a similar size it seems to lose its Britishness with astounding regularity.

Shareholders of British Telecom yesterday overwhelmingly approved BT's £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long-distance carrier. They probably did not notice that the upper echelons of Concert, the merged entity, will be loaded with American names.

Jerry Taylor, chief executive of MCI, has emerged as president and chief operating officer of Concert, although he reports to Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive. Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman, is to share the chairman's office with Sir Iain Vallance and half the management positions immediately below them are filled with MCI brass. Concert will have headquarters in Washington and London and its shares are to be listed in New York and London.

Although Mr Taylor is always quick to say that "Peter is the boss", one wonders how many years will pass before Concert effectively becomes an American operation. Mr Taylor does not appear anxious to call it a day and embark on a leisurely spending spree with the \$44 million he is to receive for his MCI shares and options. He has signed a three-year contract at Concert at \$700,000 a year and gives every indication that he is gearing up for the long haul. "I don't see this as the end of my career," he told *The Times* recently. "I see it as a huge opportunity to carry on."

The reality is that BT would be in trouble if MCI's management did a runner. BT, in spite of its size, is a remarkably parochial company. The vast majority of its operations are in the United Kingdom and it knows little about the American telecoms market, the world's largest. Shuffling Taylor, Roberts & Co aside would imperil the largest transatlantic takeover in history and alienate every institutional investor in the land. Somewhat ominously, Sir Iain called MCI "the world's best market attacker" at yesterday's shareholders' meeting.

The "Americanisation" of British companies is nothing new. SmithKline Beecham, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical groups, is a classic case of the tail wagging the dog.

SmithKline started life as a Philadelphia apothecary and ran into trouble in the 1980s when its drugs pipeline took on the characteristics of an echo chamber. Beecham, founded in the last century by Thomas Beecham, an English laxative salesman, had troubles of its own. Their British brands, including Brylcreem and Macleans toothpaste, were a flop in the US market

# After overpaid and over here ... it's over us



Concert party: Jerry Taylor, left, and Sir Peter Bonfield announce the BT-MCI deal



Robert Bauman, an American, engineered the merger of SmithKline and Beecham

and by the 1980s it was drifting. Sir Ronald Halsted was fired as chief executive and no suitable Briton could be found to replace him. In the end, Beecham recruited Robert Bauman, an American, to run the show.

Mr Bauman was quick to introduce American-style management techniques to Beecham. He reportedly asked Lord Keith, the chairman, to produce the corporate plan, to which Lord Keith replied: "That's part of the problem. We don't have one."

In 1989, Mr Bauman engineered Beecham's merger with SmithKline. Overnight, Beecham became one of the largest players in the American pharmaceutical market and, since then, the group has become less and less British. Mr Bauman was replaced by Jan Leschly, a hard-driving Dane who spends less than a third of his time in Britain.

Half of the company's £7.9 billion in sales are in the US, against some 7 per cent in the United Kingdom, and 38 per cent of shareholders are American, up from 23 per cent in 1995. SmithKline Beecham is considered a multinational company if you live in Britain and an American company if you live in the US. Six of its 12 management team members are American.

There are less glorious examples of British companies losing their identity. One of the dearest instances of dynamic corporate finance activity surely is to pay a premium to lose control of your business to another company. Yet this happened in full daylight to Wiggins Teape Appleton. The coup, made by France's Worms/Saint-Louis alliance, came barely six months after the naive group's flotation.

WTA brought together paper companies owned by

BAT Industries in Britain and the US in preparation for a demerger in June 1990. BAT brought in Stephen Walls, youthful but recently vanquished champion of the Clark family's Plessey group, to head the combined company. Mr Walls thought expansion by acquisition was the strategy for WTA, so he was delighted in December 1990 to secure a merger with Arjomari, a smaller but important French paper group.

Arjomari was not independent, however. It was controlled by the Saint-Louis group, which was heavily influenced by the Worms financial group. As a result of the takeover, these French interests gained a controlling 40 per cent of the combined Arjo Wiggins Appleton.

Mr Walls was assured of management independence. But the new controllers understandably soon started taking

strategic financial decisions, insisting on big cuts in the 1992 dividend. Mr Walls moved on with £700,000 in his pocket. AWA shares remain quoted in London and the Franco-British board is carefully balanced. But it is now regarded as a French company.

Metal Box is another inglorious example. The struggling packaging group turned itself around in the 1980s and merged with Carnaud of France. In this instance, however, the merger was specially structured to stop MB Group, parent of Metal Box, assuming control, as would normally have happened. Instead, Carnaud management quickly seized control.

At least one company has succeeded in Americanising two great corporate names on two continents. Varsity, having Americanised Massey-Ferguson of Canada, is now doing the same with Lucas of Britain. The irony is that the exercise is being directed by a native Briton, Victor Rice.

By the 1980s, Massey-Ferguson was severing limbs in an effort to keep the body alive. Under Victor Rice, Massey-Ferguson found salvation by evolving into a car components company called Varsity. In the early 1990s, Varsity abandoned Toronto for Buffalo, New York, a move that enraged Canadian taxpayers who had helped to save Massey-Ferguson from oblivion.

Mr Rice surfaced in Britain last year when he engineered Varsity's merger with Lucas. Varsity went to great lengths to stress that the deal was a genuine merger of equals, with 60 per cent of Lucas-Varsity's top 160 managers coming from Lucas and 40 per cent from Varsity. Five of the group's seven divisions are headed by Lucas managers. In reality Varsity seems very much in control. The chief operating officer and the finance director came from Varsity and the creation of a single head office triggered the loss of more than 500 jobs, most of them from Lucas.

The company is importing Wall Street traditions, among them the effort to replace dividend payments with regular share buybacks. It seems to have backed away from plans to drop its "cumbersome" name, but cynics would not be surprised if "Varsity" emerges triumphant. The first three letters, they note, form the initials of Victor A Rice.

Will the trend continue? Probably. One British management consultant who spends much of his career in the US said Britain produces fewer good managers than America. Britain's best and brightest, he notes, gravitate towards the legal and investment banking worlds. "Here, management, especially industrial management, is still considered grubby. In the US, the opposite is true. American managers are generally better at what they do."

The French, for their part, are simply better at corporate politics.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Sterling at 100: play it again, Tony

It is the oddest twist of fate that the exchange markets have ensured that, in one sense, John Major may leave office exactly where he came in. But if you think that sterling's reappearance within its old ERM bands suggests that the exchange-rate regime is a non-issue in the long run, think again.

Overvaluation still means less inflation and less growth, as it did in 1992; but there is all the difference in the world between an exchange rate chosen through political misjudgment and intended to stick, and a rate that results from a market swing that will certainly swing back in due course. It is the pros and cons of this change that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will have to work out.

Exchange-rate volatility may offend the sense of order which is a management principle of Toyota; but, in the larger view, there is an important trade-off. Bigger financial swings mean smaller swings in the real economy. Within one country asset price increases which result from falling interest rates make capital cheap and so help to end the recession that made rates fall in the first place.

Exchange-rate swings have something of the same function internationally. Strong economies produce strong exchange rates; weak ones devalue. As a result, growth in one or two countries stimulates exports from the weaker economies. The more open the economy, the more powerful are these forces of international stabilisation.

This is already beginning to happen: there are signs of export-led growth in Japan and Germany, and of strong-currency deflation in the US and the UK. In due course, this will produce a profit squeeze in the current strong economies, with a new round of cost-cutting and labour shedding. Trade balances will also swing into the red, which will provoke, no doubt, the usual hand-wringing. But, in due course, the current strong economies will follow their economies down, and the whole cycle will start again.

In other words, a world of

floating exchange rates is one in which trade cycles are naturally out of step. In the days of the Bretton Woods regime this was regarded as a problem: even — since the IMF had the task of financing the trade imbalances that appear when cycles are out of step — as the problem of international economic management.

But experience showed that this was bureaucratic silliness. In the early 1970s the IMF managed to coordinate a world boom: the result was world-wide inflation. When that was addressed in the mid-1970s, we had what threatened to be a world slump. We can now see that, as when troops march over a bridge, breaking step may look ragged but is really much safer.

Could the same be true within Europe? That is the economic question at the heart of the EMU debate. A durable union would ensure, after a time, that the whole European economy would behave as one national economy, booming or slumping as a unit. This might be seen as helpful by corporate management, but would pose a series of headaches for the new central bank. Could cost pressures at the centre be countered without pushing the lagging regions into long-term decline? Is the whole Euro-economy open enough to enjoy much imported stability through the exchange markets? These are two of the difficult questions which disturb the sleep of thoughtful critics like Ottmar Issing of the Bundesbank, and our own Eddie George.

And that is not the end of it. Suppose you conclude, as Issing does (and I agree), that EMU is a dangerously premature project, but it happens all the same as the international bond markets seem to believe. What then be right for Britain? Float independently on a choppy tide, as John Major believes? Or join what may be a doomed convoy, as he once thought? That is the question Tony Blair promises to resolve — a bold undertaking. But if he hopes for any help from a referendum it is too bold by half.

## Testing time for those falls in unemployment figures

The Government will today unveil what ministers hope will be the decisive pre-polling day economic news of a further large-scale fall in unemployment, which the Conservatives will present as clear evidence of the success of their management of the economy.

Ministers, who were given the figures on Monday, believe the number of people out of work and claiming benefit is now falling at up to 30,000 a month, or even more. Labour, which is vigorously suspicious of the figures, will today set out details of its welfare-to-work strategy.

Accompanying today's unemployment figures for March will be other data, which, for the first time, will provide the opportunity of testing how far the mammoth falls in claimant unemployment of recent months have given an accurate picture of the job scene.

Critics claim that the figures have become less reliable since the Government's radical revision of the benefit system for the unemployed with the introduction of the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

Unemployment in Britain is measured in two main ways. The first, the claimant count (CC), is the regular and familiar "unemployment" total issued each month, like today's main figure. This is a straight administrative count of the number of people on a particular day each month who are out of work and claiming state benefit as assistance. The measure changes as governments alter the benefit system and is the one that Labour regularly

### Data today offers a chance to check out the figures, says Philip Bassett

derides as "fiddled figures" following more than 30 changes to it since 1979.

The second, so-called ILO unemployment, is a measure of the number of people out of work drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey (LFS). This survey is taken every three months among a statistically representative sample of 60,000 households across Britain, which registers people as unemployed according to an internationally accepted standard set by the International Labour Office. The two measures do not fully overlap because of the different definitions of being unemployed that each uses. In the way the ILO counts, some claimants are not unemployed, while some non-claimants are deemed as unemployed. In recent years, the gap between the two measures has varied. It was largest in spring 1990, at 422,000, when unemployment was close to bottoming out on both measures, and smallest in spring 1993, at 66,000, when on both counts unemployment was near its peak.



The figures are regarded with suspicion by Labour

Both measures have advantages — and drawbacks. On the ground of cost, Conservative ministers have refused to make the LFS a monthly survey as a check against CC unemployment. If Labour is elected, a move to a monthly LFS is likely.

Ministers insist that the two measures broadly follow the same trend. But the average quarterly difference between ILO unemployment and CC unemployment since the date of the last general election in spring 1992 is as high as 255,500. Unemployment as measured on the ILO definition is consistently higher than CC unemployment.

The Government's opponents use this gap as part of their evidence to claim that the "real" level of unemployment is higher than unemployment as measured by the claimant count, currently 1.75 million, or 6.2 per cent of the workforce.

Recently the two measures have been diverging even more. From spring 1995 the two counts have moved even further out of line, even before the sharp drop in the claimant

count seen from the end of last year with the start of JSA.

Looking at the CC figures for the same period as the ILO unemployment count to be published today, claimant unemployment dropped by an equivalent of 184,000. This represented a fall of 135,000 for men and 49,000 for women.

This is equivalent to falls of 9.2 per cent for men, and 10.6 per cent for women — or 9.5 per cent overall. For today's LFS figures to validate the claimant count fully, that would mean declines, in rounded terms, of 133,000 in male unemployment and 83,000 in female unemployment.

In other words (with figures again subject to rounding), today's ILO unemployment would have to fall from 2.33 million to 2.02 million — a drop of 212,000 — to give the fullest possible support to the monthly claimant count figures, on which the Government will place much emphasis today.

Unless the decline in the ILO count approaches this figure the Government's political opponents are likely to maintain their scepticism about the monthly unemployment figures.

Labour will be able to claim that the present joblessness level is still higher now, even after the recent extraordinary falls in unemployment, than it was when the last Labour government left office in 1979. But if the total drops again today, it will be an important political score for the Conservatives in advance of polling day.

## NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OF PAKISTAN

### NOTICE INVITING

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR BOT PROJECTS OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN PAKISTAN

National Highway Authority (NHA), invites expression of interest from interested Road Building and Operating Companies (RBOCs) for financing, designing, constructing and operating following sections of Trans Pakistan Motorway and other expressways/bridges.

Name of the Project	Length	Estimated Cost (Rs Million)
1. Lahore-Faisalabad Motorway (4 lanes)	99Km	Rs 10,241 M
2. Sheikhupura-Faisalabad-Multan D.G. Khan Motorway (4 lanes)	405Km	Rs 52,096 M
3. Karachi-Durrani-Hyderabad (Phase I: 2 lanes) Expressway (Phase II: 4 lanes)	342Km	Rs 14,280 M (for Phase I only)
4. Gwadar-Ratodero Motorway (2 lanes)	885 Km	Rs 24,234 M
5. Peshawar-Torkhum Expressway (4 lanes)	46 Km	Rs 2,333 M
6. Islamabad-Murree Expressway (4 lanes)	42 Km	Rs 2,300 M
7. Mithankot-Casual Road (2 lanes)	653 Km	Rs 34,084 M
8. Additional Chiragway Hazarabad-Abbottabad	83 Km	Rs 2,386 M
9. Mithankot, Rail-cum-Road Bridge	1.5 Km	Rs 19,019 M

RBOCs are expected to possess expertise of designing, constructing and operating a BOT project and therefore, must submit qualifications accordingly with profile of each member of the joint venture/consortium along with the confirmation by each member party to the RBOC for participation in the project. The prequalification of each RBOC will depend upon the qualification provided therein. The RBOCs must also identify possible and/or probable financing institutions from which they intend to arrange financing of the project.

The expression of interest shall contain the details to be provided under following headings

1. Expression of interest
2. Composition of RBOC
3. Individual Profile of Each Member of RBOC, with details of previous BOT experience
4. Identification of Source of Financing
5. Proposed Methodology for Implementation of the Projects.
6. Copy of agreement of Joint Venture/Consortium. Along with authority letter naming the lead company for correspondence with NHA on behalf of RBOC.

The last date for receipt of interest is 12th May, 1997. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all expressions of interest without assigning any reason therefor.

The pre-qualified RBOC shall be given opportunity to participate in submission of the proposals for the above projects, for which necessary guidelines will be issued by the NHA. For any further information, please contact the undersigned on any working day between 0900-1700 hrs.

(Raja Nawsherwan)  
Chief Coordinator (Private Sector Cell)  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
RDF Building G-9/1, Islamabad, Pakistan. Ph: 051-260549 Fax: 051-264404



**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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# Peugeot's £100m deal safeguards 3,000 UK jobs

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

PEUGEOT, the French car manufacturer, yesterday gave the British motor industry a £100 million vote of confidence by announcing that it will build a new car in Coventry, safeguarding almost 3,000 jobs.

Peugeot expects the 206 hatchback — a replacement for the popular 205 model — to be in production by the end of next year and in the showrooms by 1999.

The Coventry plant at Ryton already makes the 306, which has become a best-seller in Britain with nearly 59,000 sold here last year. Ryton also exports production worth about £250 million back to mainland Europe.

Dick Parham, managing director of Peugeot in the UK, confirmed the investment yesterday and said it underlined the progress that Ryton had made in Peugeot's European empire. Quality levels at

Ryton were now among the best in Peugeot while productivity had risen markedly.

Fears were growing that executives in France would take their investment plans elsewhere after workers at Ryton threatened last month to strike against a new deal on pay and conditions. But the workforce agreed to introduce flexibility on assembly lines in return for an increased 5 per cent wage offer, paving the way for the introduction of the new car. The new deal on flexibility, involving multi-skilling, allows extra shifts and production without extra recruitment. The deal swung the investment to Ryton in the face of competition from France and Spain.

The investment is a huge vote of confidence in Ryton, which has had a chequered history and lagged behind the revolution in the rest of the British motor industry. The

factory originally belonged to the Rootes Group before falling into the hands of Chrysler of the United States, but Chrysler pulled out of Europe, selling its interests to the PSA Peugeot-Citroen group for \$1.

Peugeot started production at Ryton by making the 309 and then switched to the Peugeot 405 medium-sized saloon, though that was taken back to France, leaving Ryton with the smaller 306. Improvement in productivity has increasingly impressed French executives, who decided to make Ryton a key centre for manufacture of a sedan version of the 306 for the European market.

Toyota's UK plant is to supply more than 350,000 components a year to its parent company in Japan. The £1.8 million annual contract is for rear windscreen-mounted stop lamps and wiper motors, arms and blades.



Graham Lawson, of Watts Blake Bearne, where the total dividend is increased to 16.2p in spite of a fall in earnings

## Watts suffers from strong pound

WATTS BLAKE BEARNE & Co, the processor of clay, sand and gravel, blamed sterling's strength and cost of investment for a fall in pre-tax profits to £10.7 million from £11.25 million in 1996.

The company, whose chief executive is Graham Lawson, said yesterday that operating profits were maintained at

£12.18 million, against £12.2 million, in difficult markets. At the previous year's exchange rates, operating profits would have risen by 3.5 per cent. Group turnover was £102.93 million, down from £104.87 million. Devon Clays, the core subsidiary, suffered a 15 per cent fall in sales volumes, primarily because of the

slowdown in the home market, though it exports about 80 per cent of output.

The total dividend is increased to 16.2p a share from 15.2p, with an 11.8p final, in spite of a fall in earnings to 29.1p a share from 31.7p. The shares were unchanged at 435p. The company is 49.5 per cent owned by SCR-Sibeco, of Belgium.

## Sedgwick and Nikols to merge

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SEDGWICK, the insurance broker, is to merge its southern European and Latin American operations with Nikols, the largest Italian insurance group.

The link-up, via a joint venture, will cover risk services, insurance and re-insurance broking and employee benefits consulting. Sedgwick did not give details of the numbers involved but said the deal was "of strategic significance as both partners are committed to growing their market share ... and to becoming the leading advisers in southern Europe and Latin America".

Sedgwick said the deal fitted in with its aim to be one of the top three brokers in each European country in which the group operates. Sedgwick has come under increasing pressure to merge with another broker, the favourite being rival Willis Corroon, to cut costs. Institutional shareholders have expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of its shares.

## Housing recovery 'gaining strength'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RECOVERY in the housing market shows further signs of strengthening, with an increase in housebuilding and the ability of people to buy remaining high.

According to the National House-Building Council, which registers applications to build new homes, activity rose 8 per cent in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period last year.

Excluding housing association developments, 34,000 applications were made for private-sector housing. Sales of new homes were strong in the first three months at an average of 632 each day, a 15 per cent increase.

Buyers are also enjoying favourable conditions, the council said. The availability of cash for first-time home buyers is at one of its highest levels since the early 1970s, according to an NHBC index. But Imtiaz Farookhi, NHBC chief executive, warned against over-optimism: "Although we have now had eight months of steady recovery in the new housing market there is still a long way to go before we see conditions which match the levels of growth seen in the 1980s. It is still too early to talk of a housing boom."

Mr Farookhi said slower growth was preferable to accelerated development of the market. He said: "What the housebuilding industry needs now is a period of gentle sustainable growth backed by government policies to keep recovery on track. Long-term consumer confidence in the housing market is the essential ingredient to get increasing numbers of potential purchasers to buy a new home."

## Ropner passes on final payout

Ropner, the shipping, property and engineering group taken over in February by Jacobs Holdings, reported a 66 per cent slump in pre-tax profits from £4.62 million to £1.57 million for the year to December 31. The results, the last from Ropner as an independent company, also saw earnings per share fall from 12.9p to 1.5p. There will be no final dividend, making a 3.5p (8.25p) total.

### Hemingway up

Hemingway Properties, the property trading and investment group, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.5 million (£2.9 million) in 1996. Earnings per share almost doubled to 3p. A final dividend of 0.38p will be paid on May 30, lifting the total to 0.55p (0.5p).

### Mid-States rise

Mid-States, a supplier of automotive components in the US, reported pre-tax profits up from £3.7 million to £4 million for the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose 4 per cent to 5.3p. A final dividend of 0.24p, due July 24, brings the total to 0.48p (nil).

### Ross improves

Ross Group, the electronics and engineering company, reported pre-tax losses of £223,000 for the year to December 31, against a £7.3 million loss the previous year. The loss per share fell to 0.25p (5.09p). There is no dividend.

### Jerome ahead

S Jerome, the textiles manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits 20 per cent to £1.14 million in the year to December 31. The total dividend rises 33 per cent to 3p, after a 2p final. Earnings per share rose 8 per cent to 8.1p.

## American banks take advantage of buoyant markets

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN banks enjoyed higher earnings in the first quarter of this year as they took advantage of active financial markets on Wall Street and overseas.

Chase Manhattan, the largest US bank, reported earnings of \$927 million, compared with \$89 million for the same period last year, which was hit by a \$1 billion charge to cover its merger with Chemical Bank. Ignoring the merger costs, earnings rose 9 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Revenue growth did not meet the bank's targets, but improved efficiency helped to raise overall profitability. However, there was a rise in bad debts on the bank's large credit card business as US consumer debt became more of a problem for most banks across the country.

Citicorp, the second-largest bank, saw net income rise 9 per cent to \$995 million, compared with \$914 million at the same time last year. The loss ratio on Citicorp's US credit card business rose from 4.38 per cent to 5.91, contribut-

ing to a 3 per cent decline in earnings on the consumer credit operation.

The bank said that its main effort will go into overseas expansion, particularly in emerging markets, a process that will gather momentum over the next year.

Merrill Lynch, one of Wall Street's biggest investment banks, also reported higher first-quarter profits, with a record three-month result of \$465 million, up 14 per cent on last year. The bank said it had become the world's leading underwriter in debt and equity issues and is also the leading adviser on mergers and acquisitions.

Salomon Inc, the holding company for Salomon Brothers, the investment bank, fared less well. It suffered a steep fall in first-quarter profits from \$310 million a year ago to \$175 million.

Return on equity slumped from 29.7 per cent to 13.4 per cent. Robert Denham, chairman, said market conditions had been more difficult so far this year than last year.

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**YOUTH**  
From London's high-rise estates to the Albert Hall: a bold new project gives teenagers a chance



**MUSIC 1**  
A new sort of *Eroica*: Mark Wigglesworth blows the cobwebs off Beethoven

# THE TIMES ARTS



**MUSIC 2**  
Family matters: Shostakovich's music is interpreted at the Festival Hall by his son



**MUSIC 3**  
Follow my lieder: Ian Bostridge makes his mark in a fine recital of Schubert

# Miracle in the gangsta's paradise

**Richard Morrison joins some talented boys and girls from the 'hood on their way to the Albert Hall**

What's the distance from the Bollo Bridge Youth Club in Acton, West London, to the Albert Hall? Three miles? A short bus ride? Wrong. It's the length of a lifetime. Next week dozens of youngsters will leave that club — a bleak, heavily barricaded hut on one of West London's grimmest estates — and make the journey to the Albert Hall. As performers, not spectators. So will hundreds of other teenagers from youth clubs across ten London boroughs.

They will stage a show called *Miracles*, and the title is apt. True, it will involve some of the capital's best youth ensembles. But it will also include many youngsters who, six months ago, would not have thought of putting on a performance in public than they would of walking on the Moon.

Nor would they have possessed the confidence or skills to do so. Some were already being written off as failures, falling off the edges of "the system", drifting into apathy and worse. How they have been given the chance to discover their potential and their pride is one of the most positive stories to happen in the arts this year.

It begins with Mark Stephenson, a former cellist who now conducts his own orchestra, London Music. Like others in the orchestral field, he is worried that the audience for symphony concerts is drawn from too narrow a social and age range. "Our population has changed dramatically, and if orchestras are to survive they have got to address that vast, diverse new audience," he says.

Most British orchestras now have community projects, taking the players into local schools. But Stephenson's plan was altogether more ambitious. He wanted to establish links with the admirable (but scantily funded) youth clubs that attempt to give teenagers somewhere safe to go after school in some of London's most difficult areas. He also wanted to give the youngsters access to some of the best professional advice and equipment available, and then to put on a show that would somehow bridge the gap between the music predominantly of interest to the kids on the street — which means rap, hip-hop and soul — and the world of orchestras and classical music. "It



Busting out of Bollo Bridge: "I'm just helping these brothers and sisters out of their shells," says New York rapper Evress Nahum-Sonson (in red jacket) of his role in the making of *Miracles*

was a gamble. I had never come across rap before in my life. But I have always felt that performers have a big social role to play."

Over more than two years Stephenson's scheme took shape. The first step was to obtain the backing of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. "They were keen to lose their hairy-knees image, and to reach into the high-rise estates," Stephenson says. In particular, Prince Edward (who chairs the Award's special projects group) gave his support. That gave Stephenson the clout to approach the youth services in ten London boroughs. "At first there was suspicion; a scepticism about people like myself descending for a single project. The local authority youth services have been put under so much pressure recently that they are very defensive about what they

are already doing. But we've got through that stage. They realise we are committed."

Next, Stephenson recruited a team of professional musicians, actors, dancers and poets to go into the youth clubs and work with the youngsters. "The idea was predominantly to give them role models. That meant a strong black presence: really good people who the kids can relate to."

They include rappers like the London-born but Brooklyn-bred Evress Nahum-Sonson, the R&B dancer/choreographer Sharon Wray, jazz pianist Nikki Yeoh and the prodigiously talented young composer Paul Gladstone Reid. It is Reid who has written the 50-minute *Miracles* that will comprise the second half of the Albert Hall event, bringing together London

Musici, African drummers, a rock band, professional dancers, and a choir of about 500 to perform a fable about youngsters growing up in London.

"The first thing that the professionals had to do was to establish trust," Stephenson says. "Initially, the youngsters didn't believe that what I told them would actually happen. There are some very tough kids there. In their lives so far, very few people have given a damn. But the next thing was to impress on them that they had to work damn hard to achieve any worthwhile goals. Yes, performing is fun. But it's no different from sport: you need discipline, skills, dedication."

And, of course, money. The *Miracles* project cost about £300,000, which perhaps explains why such schemes don't happen

every week, or in every British city. But Stephenson found a surprising ally in the merchant bank, Singer & Friedlander, which became the principal sponsor.

"The managing director got a bit of a shock when he heard the rappers," Stephenson recalls, "because we haven't sanitised it in any way. We have simply tried to suggest that they adopt a positive attitude and say something about themselves and their own situation, rather than just copying American gangsta rap." There are also contributions from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Marks & Spencer and Channel 4, while Doc Martens has paid for the dance element and Yamaha has made a vital gift of musical equipment.

Each of the ten boroughs will have its slot in the first half of the

Albert Hall concert, having previously performed the material locally. The fare will be varied. Hillingdon is sending a percussion ensemble; other youth clubs offer steel bands, dance troupes, gospel singers and new drama.

Behind the locked doors and fortified windows of the Bollo Bridge Centre I watched Nahum-Sonson coaxing the youngsters from Acton into producing a rap and hip-hop show that is raw but sparky. "I can't categorise my role here," he says. "I'm just helping these brothers and sisters out of their shells, because they have everything they need inside — if they know how to use it."

That's the point, isn't it? London's inner-city youth has had a bad

press lately, thanks to the horrific deeds of a few teenage gangs. And of course it is important that we get to grips with the knife-culture, the seedy arcades with their mind-warping video games, the ubiquitous drug pushers and the intimidation stalking many estates and secondary school playgrounds.

But zero tolerance by itself isn't enough. We also need to hold out hope and opportunity. *Miracles* won't be perfect when it comes to fruition in the Albert Hall next week, but it will bring hope. For some youngsters, it might be the most hopeful thing that has ever happened to them. And after that the chief question, for professionals and youngsters alike, will be: where do we go from here?

● *Miracles* is at the Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) on April 24 at 7.30pm

CONCERTS: Variations on Prokofiev for cello; Shostakovich for the next generation; a rural marathon round Beethoven; and Schubert's fine swansong

## Potted chamber

When Prokofiev died in 1953 he left sketches for two works intended for cello and orchestra. The solo sonata and a Concertino for cello and orchestra. The solo sonata seems to have remained undisturbed. The Concertino, on the other hand, has been resurrected in three different performing versions — one for cello and piano edited by Rostropovich himself, one for cello and orchestra scored by Dmitri Kabalevsky and, now, one for cello and chamber orchestra arranged by Vladimir Blok.

Steven Isserlis, who has long been a champion of the cello and piano version, has never been comfortable with Kabalevsky's orchestration — presumably because its large-scale sound is out of keeping with the intimate material and the modest proportions of the piece. As he demonstrated in a movingly committed first performance of the Blok score with Mark Wigglesworth and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Concertino is very much more convincing in a chamber-orchestra version.

If it is less than completely convincing it is because the last of the three movements, the least advanced at the time of Prokofiev's death, would surely not have survived in anything like its present form if the ailing composer had considered the implications of basing it on a theme so similar to one he had already used in

**BBC NOW/  
Wigglesworth  
Cardiff**

the recently revised Sinfonia Concertante for cello and orchestra. Even so, the Concertino treatment of that theme does yield some lively and interesting new variants and it does provide an acceptable ending to a work abundant in cantabile melody in its first two movements, and far too valuable in its lyrical inspiration to be ignored. What a pity that Blok, who died earlier this year, could not be in Cardiff to hear it.

There was another example of resurrection, in a different sense, in the second half of the concert in St David's Hall. Performed in a new, minutely revised edition by Jonathan Del Mar, Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony emerged in extraordinarily fresh colours. How much of this was to do with the actual revisions and how much to do with a renewed attention to the written detail it is difficult to say. But such features as the breathless hush before the famous "false" entry of the horn in the first movement were as effective as they only rarely are.

GERALD LARNER

## Playing by the book

**Philharmonia/  
Shostakovich  
Festival Hall**

more massive symphonic scale, and is a profound, mature and elusive work. Igor Oistrakh has his father's broad, rich tone. But his robust professional approach to the mysterious, seamless opening melody allowed for too few moments of poetry, and the unbearable beauty of the long Passacaglia was handled roughly, tuning away. A low vibrato and a fast bow may have stolen from the

intensity of the introspective cantilenas, but Oistrakh sprang to life in the scherzo, burlesque and cadenza, reviving a virtuoso technique still intact.

Maxim Shostakovich took the Festival Overture at break-neck speed, capturing all its trite emptiness at a stroke. Yet in general his speeds have slowed. The symphony's Scherzo was unmanicured and demonic; his steady speed for the finale's repeated high note produced a macabre chilling effect; and he found time and space for cadences of quiet grace in the first movement.

Yet from the very sober opening one almost felt as if a musical dictation was being given from a great distance. His instinct that one needs to add burlesque or irony to the composer's heavily impregnated scores is surely right, but can the stark simplicity of the Fifth take so literal an approach?

HELEN WALLACE

## Swiss raise the tempo

For its contribution to the so-called London International Orchestral Season, the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra stuck to a middle-brow course with the emphasis on Beethoven. Heirs to the oldest orchestral tradition in Switzerland, the players were responsive to the well-rehearsed preparation of their music director, David Zinman.

**Zurich TO/Zinman  
Festival Hall**

He is an energetic conductor who imparts a corresponding vitality to his performances, as he did in Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony by seeming at the outset in a hurry to savour the feelings Beethoven had on his excursion into the countryside. Zinman set a pace more like a marathon than a relaxed enjoyment of his surroundings.

The strings sounded bold and incisive, the woodwind variously well-pointed, and the brass mellow and rounded. The brook babbled busily in lilting triple time, the peasants went about their merry-making as if afraid of the impending thunderstorm, which broke about them rapidly before Zinman sobered down the music for a heartfelt thanksgiving hymn.

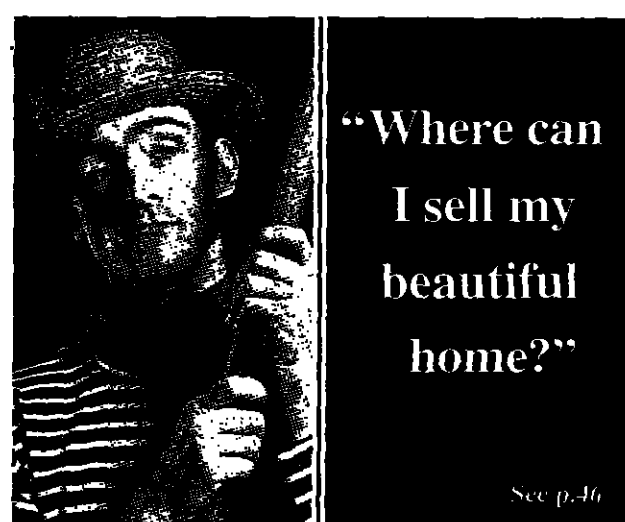
The programme began with Radu Lupu, a sometimes jaunty but always fastidious soloist in Beethoven's B flat Piano Concerto (No 2), where again no time was lost in setting a bustling tempo. The pianist adorned the first movement with what I took to be his own perceptive cadenza, leading on to a ruminative slow movement and a ravishing finale.

The visitors presented their calling-card at the outset in an

excellent account of Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture*. The genial spirit of the orchestral writing was poised on a buoyant rhythmic impetus

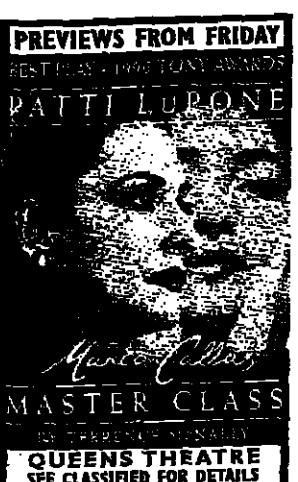
that left nothing to be desired in a sense of good fellowship and musical exuberance.

NOEL GOODWIN



"Where can I sell my beautiful home?"

See p.46



**PREVIEWS FROM FRIDAY**  
REHEARSAL: THE TONY ARNOLD  
PAUL LUPU  
MASTER CLASS  
QUEENS THEATRE  
SEE CLASSIFIED FOR DETAILS

**oyal liverpool  
nilharmonic ociety**

**Royal Liverpool  
Philharmonic Orchestra**

Webem Passacaglia (20 & 20 April)  
Beethoven Overture Coriolan (20 April)  
Brahms Violin Concerto  
Beethoven Symphony No.6 Pastoral

Liver Peak conductor  
Kurt Winkler violin

Wed 23 Apr. 7.30  
**Barbican  
Centre**  
0171 638 8891

Sat 26 Apr. 7.00  
**Sheffield  
City Hall**  
0114 278 9789

Tue 29 Apr. 7.30  
**Preston  
Guild Hall**  
01772 258858



## CHOICE 1

**Lynne Dawson**  
sings Cleopatra in  
Handel's oratorio,  
*Alexander Balus*

VENUE: Tonight in the  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

## CHOICE 2

**A West End**  
transfer for  
Peter Whelan's  
*The Herbal Bed*

VENUE: From tonight at  
the Duchess Theatre

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## CHOICE 3

**The Admirable**  
*Crichton*, with Ian  
McShane, opens the  
Chichester season

VENUE: Now in preview  
at the Festival Theatre

## VISUAL ART

**Magritte and**  
other delights  
at the Palazzo  
Grassi; strange  
sounds in the  
air at RIBA

**VISUAL ART: Flemish and Dutch masters of the 20th century; architects in sound at RIBA**

A welcome  
light on  
the ignored

When the Royal Academy was engaged in its gargantuan nation-by-nation surveys of 20th-century art between 1985 and 1993, one of the nations that got left out was The Netherlands. One might, of course, argue that, compared with that of Germany, Italy, Britain and America, the art of the Low Countries in the 20th century has been marginal. But mention the names of Van Gogh, Mondrian and Magritte, along with the whole De Stijl and Cobra movements, and second thoughts are in order.

Such, at any rate, seems to be the inspiration of the large show of Flemish and Dutch Painting in the 20th Century at the Palazzo Grassi, Fiat's cultural flagship in Venice, throughout the spring and early summer. It has been curated by two former directors of Kassel's periodic, ultra-modern jamboree, Documenta, one Dutch and one Flemish: Rudi Fuchs is director of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, and Jan Hoet of the Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst in Ghent. The combination is significant, declaring not only the exhibition's basic sympathy with the ultra-modern, but also the strength of the movement on both sides of the border to cultural integration between the Dutch and the Belgian Flemish, linked by a common language and by constant artistic interchange throughout the century.

Certainly Dutch and Flemish art make more sense if considered together, especially at the onset of modernism. (Much the same is true, for the same reasons, of early modern art in America and Canada.) There is a lot of interest, in fact, that even such a large exhibition, occupying the whole

of the Palazzo Grassi, seems in places cramped, and gives rise to sharp questioning of who is included and who is not. In particular, Mondrian's close early associates Jan Sluijters and Leo Gestel seem done down, with just one Sluijters (a dazzling *Bal Tabarin* of 1907) and no Gestel at all.

But Fuchs has an answer ready: the problem with the RA shows, he thinks, was that they were determined to show how uniform the modern movement across Europe was, at the expense of the brilliantly eccentric and the idiosyncratically national. With this show he has tended the other way, to the extent of playing down those artists who seem too all-of-a-piece with what was going on in Paris.

Rather, the curators have chosen to build up the strange, wilfully awkward "Flemish Expressionism" of painters such as Constant Permeke and Gustave De Smet, or the unsparing Neue Sachlichkeit of Charley Toorop, daughter of the Art Nouveau artist Jan Toorop. Many of these artists will come as a revelation to visitors from outside Holland and Belgium.

The programme thus declared is carried forward and back. Forward to contemporary artists such as Pyke Koch, Jan Dibbets and Marlene Dumas, whose various kinds of realism are placed clearly in a local context, and back to the Brueghels, Patinir and the geometrically obsessed painter of churches Saenredam, who are made to look like (and possibly are) direct ancestors of Ensor, Mondrian, Permeke and Dibbets. And then there is Van Gogh who, although he died in 1890, clearly played a seminal role in all that subsequently happened in the art of the Low Countries.

If there is little conceptual art such as one might expect to encounter at a typical Documenta, it is obviously not because the curators reject it, but because they do not feel that, with the exception of Broadhursts, already a modern classic, it fits in very well with the national tradition they are seeking to define. The definition is in fact successfully achieved, and if there is

maybe a little cheating around the edges, at least it is in favour of the intriguing byway rather than the over-familiar main road to Modernism.

**JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR**

Flemish and Dutch Painting in the 20th Century is at the Palazzo Grassi, Venice (41-52.31.680) until July 13

## Building castles in the air

descend through the atrium, as a slow-moving cloud of sound fills the space and expands to bursting point. If architecture really is frozen music, then the thaw has begun. It is installation time at the Royal Institute, and composer Diana Burrell (of the splendid *Via Concerto* and massive *Symphony of Flocks, Herds and Shoals*) has risen to the challenge. Ten years ago, she rashly declared on radio that she would like to

be an architect. Pierre d'Avoine telephoned her and proposed a project together. Inspired by the beautifully proportioned 1930s RIBA building, they have sought, with architect and designer Janek Schaeffer, to counterpoint the potential of physical space and space in time. One relates to the other in the full glory of — you have guessed it — the random happening. You may walk in and find nothing is taking

place at all. You may, on the other hand, hear any one of three 20-minute-long, exquisitely textured vocal chords radiating out into space. And if you are really lucky, you may hear some real live musicians improvising with it — or against it. If they feel moved. Compared with the robust energy and hyperactivity of Burrell's more conventional writing, this is near comatose. Burrell relishes the paradoxes inherent in it all:

there are seats, but you cannot sit on them; sounds, but you may not hear them; music, but there may be no audience. Or, of course, versa. On four specific evenings you are guaranteed some action, but for this you must pay a fiver. And on May 1 there is an election night special. More hot air?

**HILARY FINCH**

TRAP is at the RIBA Architecture Centre, 66 Portland Place, London W1 4AD until May 3. Admission free. Special performances on April 18, 23 and May 1. Tickets £5 from 0171-631 0460

## LONDON

**ALEXANDER BALUS** The King's Consort performs Handel's oratorio, *Alexander Balus* (1748) in the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.45pm. A star-studded line-up of soloists includes Lynne Dawson, Claron McKendry, and Catherine Danby in the title role, with the Choir of New College, Oxford, and the Choir of the King's Consort. At 7.30pm in the Festival Hall, Claron McKendry conducts the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra in *Shubert's Ave Maria*, songs from *Die Knaben Wunderhorn* by Mahler and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. With Anna Larsson, mezzo-soprano, Peter Mattei, baritone. South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242).

**THE HERBAL BED** Peter Whelan's fascinating play transfers from the Barbican; some cast changes but Terence Bayler continues to play Shakespeare's daughter, and Stephen Bower her Puritan inductor. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

**THE UBU PLAYS** First in a season of European satire: John Wright directs a century-old production of *Ubu* by Ibsen, a satirical masterpiece. Kenneth McMillan introduces the saga of monstrously vulgar and cruel King Ubu. 11 Pembroke Road, W11 (0171-228 0706). Preview begins tonight, 7.30pm. Opens April 18, 7.30pm.

**ART** David Hagg, Anton Lesser, Mark Williams in this exceptionally interesting drama about the Englishman's quest for a white painting. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-361 1738). Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

**BIRDY** Northern Exposure actor Rob Morrow joins Kevin Kline's cast in Naomi Wallace's fascinating version of the William Winton novel, or a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew Wood) believes he is a bird? Comedy. Farnham, SW1 (0171-380 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, until April 19.

**THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE** The Chalk Circle is transformed into a "theatre in the round" for Simon McBurney's production of Beckett's last important work. Juliet Stevenson plays Guinevere, with McBurney as the ingenious judge, Azdak. National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-321 2222). Now previewing, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm, Opens April 21, 7.15pm. Then in rep.

**COQUETTES AND CHOCOLATE** An affair, a pregnancy, a baby and a beg lady feature in this stage version of the radio play by Anthony Minghella. *Mama in the Moon*. 362 King's Road, SW2 (0171-361 2278). Tue-Sun, 8pm, until April 27.

**HALLLOWEEN NIGHT** Rough Magic Company from Ireland brings the Four Corners season to a close with

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mackay

## ELSEWHERE

**BRIGHTON** Tension Theatre lays bare a mindless consumer culture of sex, drugs and pulp entertainment in its original adaptation of Aldous Huxley's apocalyptic novel, *Brave New World*. Kneadles, 14-17 Manchester Street, G1 3JH (01273 577778). Tonight-Sat, 8pm.

**CHICHESTER** The summer season begins with the tropical island setting of J.M. Barrie's *The Admirable Crichton*, where Ian McShane's perfect father and Michael Denison's noble son find the needs of survival alter social precedence. Michael Rudman directs and John Engle designs. Festival Theatre, Chichester, PO19 1JH (01243 781312). Preview begins tonight, 7.30pm. Then Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens April 22, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Some Sat and Sun, in rep. until June 8.

**GLoucester** The Royal Scottish National Orchestra offers Haydn's Symphony No. 80, I. distretto, and Saint-Saëns's Organ Symphony (I. distretto). Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester, GL1 2EE (01452 833333). Sat, 7.30pm. Then in rep.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS** Lynne Parker's production of Declan Donnell's play is a holiday cottage for uneasy couples well past their best. Superlative events include *House of Commons*, *House of Commons*, *House of Commons*. WCC (0171-361 1738). Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, until April 19.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR** Michael Muller's production of *The Importance of Being Oscar* is a comedy about a man who is a woman. *The Importance of Being Oscar*. WCC (0171-361 1738). Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, until April 19.

**LANGUAGE ROULETTE** Doreen Carville's last-thing play set in a Belfast pub on a pound-a-night night where the radio plays by Anthony Minghella. *Mama in the Moon*. 362 King's Road, SW2 (0171-361 2278). Tue-Sun, 8pm, until April 27.

**THE POWER OF DARKNESS** Talbot's evening drama of adultery, murder and redemption in a Russian peasant household, translated by Anthony Clark. Sean Hayes directs. Orange Tree, Clarendon Street, Richmond (0181-940 3833). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs (April 17, 24, May 1), 2.30pm. Sat (April 19), 4pm. Until May 31.

**THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES** Peter Bowles both touching and comic as he tells the story of a woman who is a man. *The School for Wives*. WCC (0171-361 1738). Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, until April 19.

**70 HILL LANE** Return visit of Phelim McDermott's fascinating re-creation of the time his childhood home was occupied by a collection of using two helpers and role of the Sellops. *70 Hill Lane*. WCC (0171-361 1738). Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, until April 19.

**LONG RUNNERS** *An Inspector Calls*. Garra (0171-494 5075). *James Cagney*. WCC (0171-361 1738). *James Cagney*. WCC (0171-361 1738). *James Cagney*. WCC (0171-361 1738).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them, with the symbol (★) on release across the country

**3225 OCEAN DRIVE** (1981-315 4220) Virginia Chelms (0171-322 5000) *Shogun* (0171-322 5000) *Shogun* (0171-322 5000) *Shogun* (0171-322 5000) *Shogun* (0171-322 5000).

**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** (U) Minor technical improvements, otherwise the same Star Wars sequel as before. With Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Director: Irvin Kershner. ABC & Baker Street (0171-933 9372).

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## ART GALLERIES

**PARSON GALLERY** 19 Mar-16 Apr. Theodore Roosevelt "A triumph of the spirit." Times Last week. Fri. 11 Mar-20 Apr. SW1. Tel: 0171 235 4444.

**STALIN AND HIS ART** "NOW ON VIEW" ROY MILLER GALLERY 29 Bruton Street, W1. Tel: 0171 485 4747.

**OPERA & BALLET** COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. THE DAMNATION OF FAUST. TONIGHT. THE DAMNATION OF FAUST. TONIGHT. THE DAMNATION OF FAUST. TONIGHT.

**ANTIQUE & ART FAIRS** CHELSEA ART 17-20 April. 55 leading galleries offer art of all ages & schools. Thurs-Fri 11-8, Sat 11-5. Sun 11-5. Enq: 0171 351 1980.

## DANCE

**SADLER'S WELLS** at the PEACOCK THEATRE (0171) 314 8800. DANCE. THE PEACOCK THEATRE. SADLER'S WELLS. DANCE. THE PEACOCK THEATRE.

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## THEATRES

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## THEATRES

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**STARLIGHT EXPRESS</**





THEATRE 1

With stunning performances from Gambon and McCowen, *Tom and Clem* proves to be a winner



THEATRE 2

Saki transfers to the stage with only mixed success in *Super-Beasts* at Jermyn Street



THEATRE 3

... and Tolstoy does not fare much better in *The Power of Darkness* at the Orange Tree



RISING STAR

At 27 Robert Innes-Hopkins is fast becoming everybody's favourite theatre designer

THEATRE: Driberg and Attlee combine for a timely lesson on integrity. Plus morality soft and hard on London's Fringe

# Socialists win by a landslide

The maverick Labour MP Tom Driberg did pay a brief visit to Potsdam in 1945 and, as his memoirs record, did issue "an incredibly derisive" note. Sadly, that was not because he emerged from groping beneath a table, only to find the recently elected British Prime Minister staring in disbelief at him. It was simply because he suggested, while the last votes were being counted back in Britain, that Churchill's portrait beside Stalin and Truman be replaced with one of Clement Attlee.

But Stephen Churchill is an arresting enough dramatist to be allowed to take the odd liberty in what is, amazingly, his first play. Tom Stoppard, with whom he has a little in common, felt liberated by the coincidental presence of Joyce, Tristan Tzara and Lenin in the Zurich of 1917 to bring all three into *Travesties* for a debate about the value of art. Why should Churchill not dream up unlikely encounters between Driberg and Attlee when the result is so entertaining and timely a discussion about the claims of idealism and compromise?

Moreover, nobody would want to miss the performances at the centre of Richard Wilson's fine production. Michael Gambon is Driberg, a slovenly, paunchy Bacchus with a mouth that can suddenly gape like a painfully hooked fish, and a big, raddled face that tenses and blanches when he recalls the bodies he has seen at Buchenwald. Alec McCowen is an Attlee who seems a little comic when he primly corrects his new MP for using foul language such as "bloody", or settles down to a crossword "to keep the old brainbox ticking over", yet exudes homespun decency and unpretentious generosity of spirit.

In so far as there is a plot, it is a bit absurd. Would a would-be Soviet traitor, about to be posted to London, really talk about defection to the former communist Driberg, of all people, under Stalin's nose in Potsdam, of all places? But that turns out to be a relatively minor strand in Churchill's dramatic tapestry. The fate that eventually overtakes Dan-

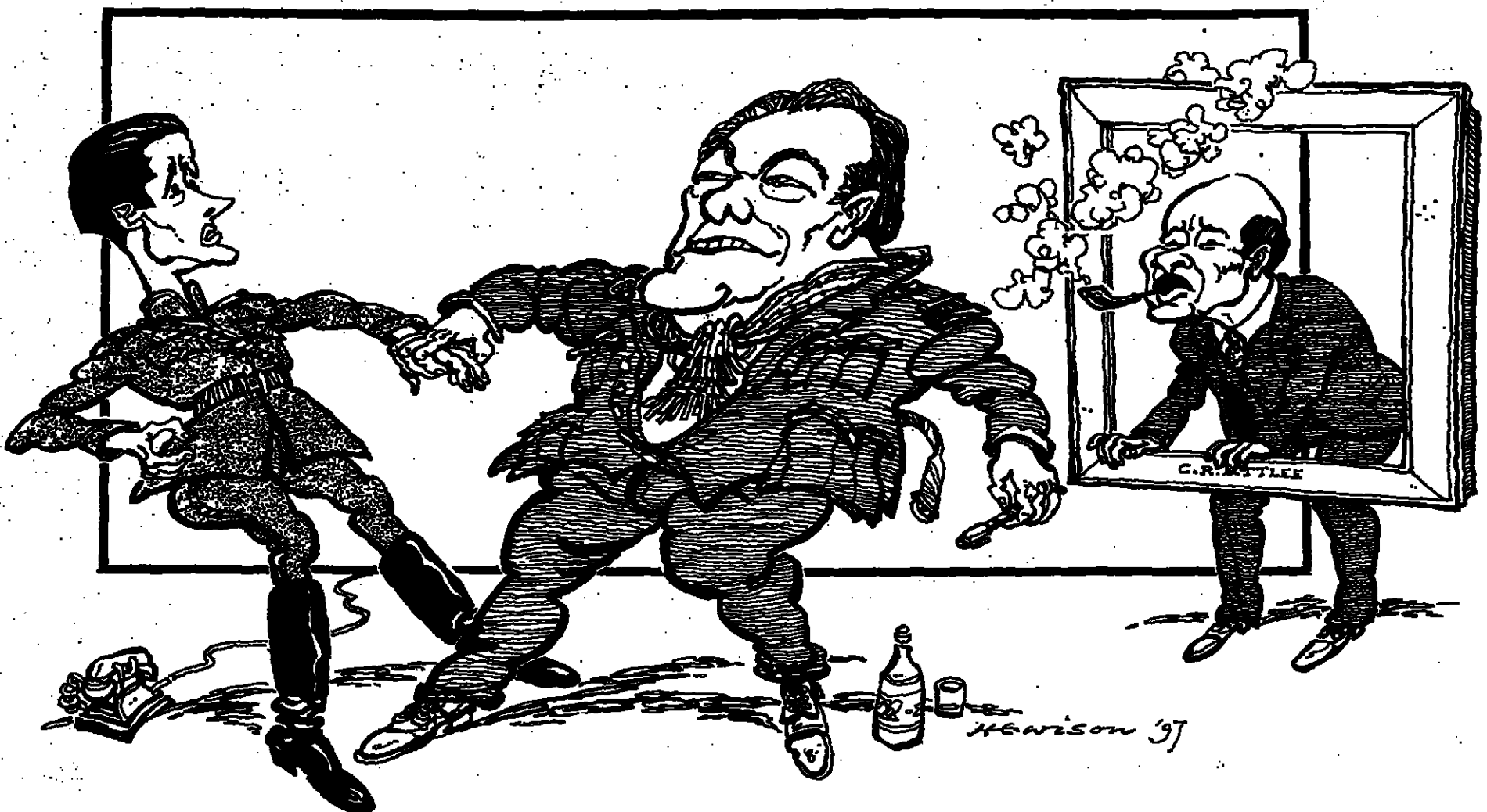
Tom and Clem Aldwych

iel de la Falaise's Alexei turns out to be just one example of what Attlee praises as "thinking of the greater good", and Driberg derides as "compromise, fudge, betrayal". This is, after all, July 1945. The bombing of Hiroshima, the dividing-up of Europe and socialism in Britain are all on the agenda. It is a chance for Driberg to flaunt the revolutionary zeal that oddly coexists with his high-church Anglicanism, dedication to fellatio and nostalgia for the Savoy Grill. The very slant of Attlee's pipe, not to mention his commonsensical mind and fondness for rice pudding, proclaims his disagreement. What matters to him is finding practical ways of building a world for the starving slum kid and for the retired teacher "who can't manage on her pension".

I must say that, given the easy smiles and trim sound-bites currently assailing us, Attlee's no-frills manner and gritty dedication to one-nation politics left me wishing he was standing in my constituency on May 1. But the strength of Churchill's play, especially when it launches into Shavian-style debate towards the end, is that it gives a fair hearing both to that and to Driberg's flamboyant romanticism. The Tories come out less well, which seemed fine by the first-night audience.

Some of us could have done with fewer double-entendres, but most people laughed a lot, especially at the confusion caused the translators when an offstage Ernie Bevin offers the Soviets "a bunch of five", or tells Molotov he "doesn't use a monkey's". But I have to repeat that laughter turned to applause at the lines "if we've got to have Tories they should at least be gentlemen", and "the Tories haven't delivered the goods after all the years they've had to do so". A sign of the times or unrepresentative bravado? We'll know soon.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Daniel de la Falaise (Alexei), Michael Gambon (Tom Driberg) and Alec McCowen (Clement Attlee) in Stephen Churchill's excellent debut as a playwright, *Tom and Clem*

## Saki with sugar

Super-Beasts  
Jermyn Street

HECTOR Hugh Munro, political journalist, war correspondent and wit, signed his work "Saki" after the Persian handmaiden who turns down the empty glass at the end of the *Rubaiyat*. This is a pretty odd choice, and if the name has stuck so fast, this could be because the echo with "sarcasm" feels so apt.

The casually witty young idlers in his stories, the tart duchesses and discomfited bores, inhabit the ripe Edwardian world of clubland and house-parties, exotically spiced with trips to the Balkans. Dictionaries of quotations rightly devote columns to his wise, or at least perfectly phrased, observations on life, society and pretension.

But this is not to say that a succession of his tales and sketches is going to work well on the stage. Ninety minutes of them, including interval, is like a feast of canapés. His style is not invariably smart. He can write of pain and grief but this show avoids these.

Even the well-known revenge tales, *Sredni Vashtar* and *The Lumber Room*, are silently sweetened, and nothing is allowed to intrude upon the even Edwardian summer until *Birds on the Western Front*, possibly the last piece he wrote before a sniper's

JEREMY KINGSTON

## The wages of sin

The Power of  
Darkness  
Orange Tree Theatre

a cocky seducer until the women take over the plot. Anisya is trapped in an unhappy marriage with the grumbling invalid Piotr Ignatyich. She longs for his death, when she will be free to take over the farm and marry Nikita. The news that Nikita is going to be married off therefore throws her into near despair. But Nikita's mother, Matrona (excellent Collette O'Neill), has seen the advantage of her son marrying a rich widow. She teases up with Anisya, even offering her special

charms of her son. Dermot Kerrigan gives an initially dazzling performance as the shifty-eyed charmer who has never had to show much consideration to get his way. Cut to after the marriage, however, and Tolstoy's power to surprise us wanes. Such a caricature of moral degeneration is painted that the actors have little to work from and the performances just become duller and louder. Thank goodness for Nicky Shaw's beautiful set and costumes, which recreate 19th-century rural Russian life in fascinating and picturesque detail.

CLARE BAYLEY

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CHANGING TIMES

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

**BRIGHTON**  
May 9-10  
● GET away to the South Coast for the weekend, and enjoy the 31st Brighton Festival. The festival lasts from May 3 to May 25, but your Theatre Club has pulled out all the stops to give you not just a taste of what's on offer, but a banquet of it. Using the Royal Albion Hotel as your base, your first dose of the festival comes on Friday evening, with a performance of Joshua Sobol's *The Village*, performed by Gasher Theatre, of Israel. Sobol's play tells the moving - and often funny - story of life in a small village during the Second World War. On Saturday, members are invited to join tours of the Royal Pavilion and the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, where David Allen Mellor, curator of the exhibition *Les Six: the Utopian Years*, will give a talk. Then the newly restored Dome is the venue for New Sussex Opera's *Dante's Death*, a dramatic opera set during the French Revolution. The cost of the weekend is £154.40 per couple, including two nights' hotel accommodation. Tel 01273 292950, quoting your membership number.

**LONDON**  
*Peacock Theatre*  
April 21, 28  
● THE Ballet Comunidad de Madrid presents two programmes of dance with an appropriately Spanish flavour, performed to electronic and baroque music. Top-priced tickets £15 (normally £22.50) for the opening performance of each programme. Tel 0171-314 8800.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

**LYRIC Hammersmith**  
April 22, 24-25  
● JASON MERRELLS and Sara Stewart star in Cheek By Jow's production of *Our Cio*, the play Tennessee Williams described as "my most beautiful since *Streetcar Named Desire*". Tel 0181-741 2311.

**LEICESTER**  
*Haymarket Theatre*  
May 1-24  
● JANET BROWN and Shirley Stielox star in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*. Tickets £11 (normally £14) for Tues to Thurs performances. Tel 0116-251 3310.

**CROYDON**  
*Fairfield Halls*  
April 21 (7.30pm)  
● BUY one ticket (£9 to £16.50) and get another free for *From a Jack to a King*, the latest hilarious Ted rocking reworking of Shakespeare from the man that brought you the award-winning *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. Last time the inspiration was provided by *The Tempest*; this time it's *Macbeth*-a-go-go, with the usual line-up of classic songs from the 1950s and 1960s. Tel 0181-688 9291.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament  
ROBERT INNES-HOPKINS

Age: 27.

Profession: Designer. Is he rated highly? The Critics' Circle chose him as 1996's Designer of the Year for his work on *The Weavers*, at the Gate, Notting Hill, and the RSC's *Comedy of Errors*.

Latest challenge: He has transformed the auditorium at the West Yorkshire Playhouse into a small Scottish island for the stage version of Iain Banks's cult novel, *The Wasp Factory*, which runs from Friday to May 17. "This is the most technically involved show I've worked on. There are 55 flying cues and we're using dozens of television monitors 'suspended' above the audience to display elements that we just cannot put on stage."

Accidental vocation: His father, Colin, is the lighting designer for *Blind Date*, but Robert never intended to take a similar career route. "I just kind of stumbled into designing fringe productions when I was on a fine-art course in Bath."

Apprenticeship: While studying design at Nottingham Polytechnic, he interviewed Richard Hudson, the leading theatre and opera designer. "I ended up as his assistant for the next two years, working at the RSC and Covent Garden. It taught me that design is often about knowing when and how to compromise."

Personal sideline: As a founder member of the Primitive Science performance group, he designed a live version of Kafka's short story *The Hunger Artist*, which caught the eye of *Comedy of Errors* director Tim Supple. "Primitive Science is really important to me. We're hoping to move away from theatre with a music-based installation at a London gallery in the autumn."

Is economy the mother of invention? "Some of my best ideas have emerged out of having to work with a tiny budget."

So what's next? "My Mother Said I Never Should" at the Young Vic in May, and a film of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, directed by Don Boyd, which starts shooting in Scotland in July."

Artistic aim: "To work on theatre productions that are as bold as opera, and opera productions as good at story-telling as theatre."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL





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La Crème de la Crème

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The successful candidate will be a strong communicator with a proactive, flexible attitude and a service-oriented approach. Proven organisational skills, the ability to prioritise, manage your own workload and anticipate the needs of an extremely busy and

demanding boss, essential. Presentation and professionalism a must. You will need at least five years' senior level experience, preferably gained within a large organisation in a one-to-one role. High level of computer literacy (to include Windows and spreadsheets), A-level education or equivalent, audio/copy typing of 60wpm+ as well as flexibility with regard to extensive overtime also required.

If you believe you have the skills and experience to match the above, please send your CV, stating current salary to: Support Staff Recruitment, National HR, Ernst & Young, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AP.

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The successful candidate must be A-level educated or equivalent with a recognised secretarial qualification and at least five years' experience working at a senior level within a blue chip organisation, ideally consultancy. You must possess excellent organisational skills and

be able to demonstrate the ability to juggle several tasks simultaneously and add value to your team. We are looking for the drive and enthusiasm to work in a fast moving client-orientated environment. Strong interpersonal and diary management skills a must. Overtime will be required.

Knowledge of Powerpoint, Windows 95, Excel essential.

To apply, please send a CV stating current salary and quoting reference JB, to: Support Staff Recruitment, National HR, Ernst & Young, Lintas House, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AP.

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For all positions you will need to be educated to a minimum of 'O' Level standard or equivalent (including Maths and English) with formal secretarial qualifications and advanced skills in Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint. You should have an impressive work record preferably within a similar environment. Genuine flexibility, resilience and a positive attitude are prerequisites.

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- Languages would be useful

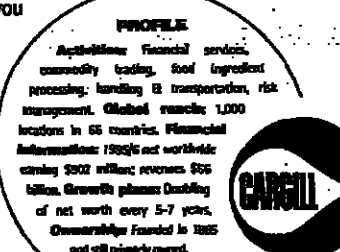
Cobham, Surrey

£18,500

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Send your CV to Angela Paradise, Human Resources Manager, Cargill, Knowle Hill Park, Fairmile Lane, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2PD. No Agencies please.



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Mayfair

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To apply, please send two copies of your full CV with a covering letter including the names and addresses of two referees to: The Personnel Department, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX, quoting ref: 1291/T. Closing date for applications: 30 April 1997.

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Other essential qualities include a smart appearance, a friendly but highly professional telephone manner, self-motivation and the ability to deal with confidential matters in a tactful, diplomatic and discreet manner. A sense of humour and a genuine interest in tourism would be a distinct advantage.

In return for your commitment and flexibility, we can offer an attractive salary and a range of benefits to include contributory pension scheme and generous holiday entitlement.

To apply, please write with your CV to: Noreen McCain, Human Resources Manager, BT/ETB, Thames Tower, Black's Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9EL. Closing date for applications: 30th April 1997.



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£18,000 An experienced, mature, professional and efficient PA/Secretary is required for a leading group of companies. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties, including diary management, organising meetings, drafting correspondence, planning itineraries and arranging travel in addition to producing briefing papers and dealing with senior level people, including MPs and chief executives. To succeed in this challenging but rewarding role, you will be educated to at least 'A' level standard and have a minimum of 5 years' senior secretarial or PA experience. Your excellent audio and keyboard skills (minimum 60wpm) will be supported by a good knowledge of Windows wordprocessing and other software (e.g. spreadsheets, databases etc), the ability to use your own initiative and to work as part of a team. Other essential qualities include a smart appearance, a friendly but highly professional telephone manner, self-motivation and the ability to deal with confidential matters in a tactful, diplomatic and discreet manner. A sense of humour and a genuine interest in tourism would be a distinct advantage. In return for your commitment and flexibility, we can offer an attractive salary and a range of benefits to include contributory pension scheme and generous holiday entitlement. To apply, please write with your CV to: Noreen McCain, Human Resources Manager, BT/ETB, Thames Tower, Black's Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9EL. Closing date for applications: 30th April 1997.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS Secretary PA

Our client is a leading group of companies. They are looking for an experienced, confident and energetic Executive Secretary to support the Chairman and Managing Director. A diverse range of responsibilities will be involved, including diary management, organising meetings, drafting correspondence, planning itineraries and arranging travel in addition to producing briefing papers and dealing with senior level people, including MPs and chief executives. To succeed in this challenging but rewarding role, you will be educated to at least 'A' level standard and have a minimum of 5 years' senior secretarial or PA experience. Your excellent audio and keyboard skills (minimum 60wpm) will be supported by a good knowledge of Windows wordprocessing and other software (e.g. spreadsheets, databases etc), the ability to use your own initiative and to work as part of a team. Other essential qualities include a smart appearance, a friendly but highly professional telephone manner, self-motivation and the ability to deal with confidential matters in a tactful, diplomatic and discreet manner. A sense of humour and a genuine interest in tourism would be a distinct advantage. In return for your commitment and flexibility, we can offer an attractive salary and a range of benefits to include contributory pension scheme and generous holiday entitlement. To apply, please write with your CV to: Noreen McCain, Human Resources Manager, BT/ETB, Thames Tower, Black's Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9EL. Closing date for applications: 30th April 1997.







Tel: 0171 680 6806

## La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

Marketing  
Investment Banking  
to £18,000

Rare opportunity to join this bank and support the marketing officer for Scandinavia and Switzerland. This is a 1:1 role and will involve arranging business trips and creating a client database as well as secretarial support. You must be a methodical worker who is conscientious and adaptable. Skills: 50wpm, Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint. Please call Katy Burke on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsCome and  
Join Us!  
Team Secretary  
to £16,000 + bens

Willing and enthusiastic second jobber required to support this lively team of recruitment consultants. Providing secretarial support at senior level you will type letters and reports, liaise with candidates and get involved with all areas of recruitment. With a year's experience you must have strong admin skills and good accuracy and spelling. Skills: 50wpm/WF. Age: 20-34. Please call Lucy Davies on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsLap of Luxury  
c£16,000+  
Gym/Social Club

International high-profile leisure company are looking for a self-assured and positive secretary for their finance controller. Worldwide liaison. Solid secretarial background and experience with figures essential. A lively and polished personality of A-level calibre would be ideal in this friendly environment. Stunning offices overlooking the Thames between West End and City. 55wpm typing. Call Camilla Loughton to find out more on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsProperty  
Investment  
to £18,000 + Bens

Superb opportunity to totally organise 2 senior partners at this fun and sociable property consultancy situated near St. Pauls Cathedral. Based in open plan offices you will be responsible for updating property database, liaising with clients and managing diaries. If you are confident, aged 24-40 with 50wpm audio, windows, please call Samantha Garner on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsTrading Floor  
Age: 19-24  
to £20,000 plus bens

Fantastic opportunity to join a dynamic and successful American Investment Bank as an assistant on this busy trading floor. Duties vary from analysing figures to organising lunches and meetings and you will be very front line, exposed to many senior people. To enjoy this position you will have excellent secretarial skills, a confident manner and lots of enthusiasm. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsRecruitment  
Administrator  
c£25,000 + bens

The Investment Banking division of this major bank has its own HR team dealing with everything from strategy to recruitment. As Administrator you will be responsible for temporary and permanent recruitment, day to day staffing issues, salary reviews and staff appraisals. You will be from a recruitment background and have strong analytical and IT skills. Previous financial experience preferred. Age to 35. Please call Amanda Chesson on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsAussie  
Connection  
£24,000

High profile international business development office in the West End requires PA/Office Manager for small VIP environment. Together with using your top PA skills, overseeing budgets and supervising staff, you will act as office lynchpin. Strong communication skills, initiative and a proactive nature are essential. If you have an in-depth knowledge of Australia, all of the above plus 55wpm typing and 80wpm shorthand please call Andrea Murrell on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsGo For It!  
£16K  
West End

Unusual opportunity for a bright and positive junior secretary to build upon their secretarial skills. Working in this high profile environment you will be expected to liaise at all levels and have the confidence to deal with the Press, VIPs and Politicians. Good understanding of etiquette, lots of initiative and able to cope within a busy office. Get on track, call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment ConsultantsJOSLIN ROWE  
secretarial recruitment consultantsTeam Secretary  
c£16,000 + Bank Bens City

This is a superb opportunity for a second jobber with City experience to work in a large Merchant Bank for a team of Fund Managers. Supporting a senior secretary and covering in her absence the successful candidate will get involved in a variety of duties including the role of secretarial and administration. Fast accurate typing speeds will be required for general correspondence, mail marking and producing mail shots. Strong organisational skills are essential for maintaining diaries and arranging UK travel. Systems knowledge of Word for Windows and Excel desirable and a minimum education at 'A' level required.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd  
Bell Court House,  
11 Bloomfield Street London EC2M 7AY  
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE  
secretarial recruitment consultants2ND Jobbers  
c£15,000 + Bens City/West End

Enthusiastic and proactive secretaries with office experience and good skills (40 wpm typing, Word for Windows) are required by 2 companies in the City and West End. One role is based in the City working for a friendly management agent specialising in insurance. Your duties will include audio & copy typing, reception cover and secretarial support on different projects throughout the year. The second position is for a management assistant in a City based company. Duties include general secretarial duties, maintaining a diary of product information, assisting in the collection of client reports and production of documents. Both positions offer excellent opportunities for involvement and the chance to improve your skills and widen your business knowledge.

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DRAKE INTERNATIONAL  
Temporary Vacancies

Based in Personnel - long term temp 25-30 yrs. One of Europe's largest software houses is seeking an all round secretary with recruitment experience. You will be responsible for all first interviews. You must be organised and full of energy.

£250 p/w - Receptionist with style.  
Working in one of the most prestigious business environments in London. You will have a minimum of one year's experience in a similar position. You will be responsible for all first interviews. You must be organised and full of energy.

Call 0171 340 3380

DRAKE INTERNATIONAL  
Permanent Vacancies

Secretary £16,000  
Superb social secretarial position available for 2nd jobber in the world's largest software houses. You will be responsible for all first interviews. You must be organised and full of energy.

£250 p/w - Receptionist with style.  
Working in one of the most prestigious business environments in London. You will have a minimum of one year's experience in a similar position. You will be responsible for all first interviews. You must be organised and full of energy.

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creative  
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Call 0171-494 4466, let's talk.

reception  
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£14,500

GORDON YATES

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SECRETARY  
TRADING FLOOR

£18,000-19,000 + Banking Benefits

American Bank located in the City has an opening for a 2nd jobber secretary to join a team based in the Capital Markets area. The position requires a well organised and confident individual who is prepared to work under pressure and also provide support to the Senior Secretary on the desk.

Knowledge of Word for Windows and Powerpoint would be advantageous, as would a Trading Floor or financial background, but this is not essential.

Call 0171 293 7000 (Agy)

SECRETARY  
GROUP TREASURY

£22,000

Our client one of the world's leading Branded Consumer Goods Companies has a superb position for a well presented, professional secretary used to working at Senior level. Excellent secretarial skills, accuracy and computer literacy (Powerpoint, Word 6 & Excel) are a must. The role producing high quality presentation material, discretion, and diplomacy are all essential qualities.

Call HAZEL BRANDON 0171-403 1526

SEAL RECRUITMENT

4 Canton Street, London W1V 1LJ  
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

## Belle

8 Staple Inn London WC1V 7QH  
Tel: 0171 404 4655 Fax: 0171 831 7581

International Bank, Mayfair, seeks two part-time front-line receptionists for 25 hours per week. Some typing required. Immediate start. The position is for a friendly, well organised, pleasant, and efficient individual. £12,500pa, FREE GYM, PRIVATE HEALTHCARE, NCP PENSION, 23 DAYS HOLIDAY, PFP AND MUCH MORE!

Ideal for 2nd Jobber. Assist Legal Adviser and liaise with external agencies on fraud investigations. Enjoy responsibility and feel part of a team. Audio and good organisational skills required. Pleasantly located. £16,000pa, BUPA, NCP PENSION, 23 DAYS HOLIDAY, PFP AND MUCH MORE!

Ideal for 2nd Jobber. Assist a small team of graduates involved in arranging foreign exchanges and appreciate a friendly, academic environment close to Piccadilly. Good Windows skills and a command of English essential. £12,800pa, 24 DAYS HOLIDAY, PFP AND MUCH MORE!

Does psychiatric research interest you? If so, a busy, world-recognised team can offer wide-ranging involvement if you have good secretarial skills. Could be temp to perm. South London. to £15,900pa PLUS GOOD BENEFITS

Please contact Liz Forrester or Sue Polan

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£25,000 plus package

This is a very secure role for an experienced PA with a particular feel for business and administration and a career to date which has been structured and steady. Working for a Main Board Director in a major securities house the role calls for an enthusiastic warm personality with a polished, educated attitude to both personal presentation and work ethos. Good skills on W4W. Age 30 plus.

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To £16,000 +

Would you like your boss back to include, PRP, paid overtime, sports club, gym, sun lunch, life assurance, BUPA, pen, STL, free Dr, dentist, physio + prestigious Blue Chip Co. You will enjoy working in a busy, friendly team, have 2yrs+ exp. Typ 60 wpm, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, sec qual. Lots of admin, travel org, client contact. Age 22-28. Call Karen Hutchinson 0171 256 6668.

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Join this prestigious private hospital as PA to a main board director. Based in beautiful surroundings this lynch pin position will involve forth-coming and constant liaison with VIPs and senior consultants. 50wpm typing / 80wpm shorthand.

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**Elizabeth Hunt**  
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This leading women's fashion group have an opening for a PA to join at board level. You will undertake your own projects, organise events, liaise with clients and effectively manage this head office. Retail background preferred. 60wpm typing essential.

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Frontline role in a prestigious partnership. Responsible for meeting and greeting clients, booking meeting rooms and preparation of rooms for use. Working alongside another receptionist, you will have immaculate presentation and a flair for dealing with people.

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Exciting opportunity to join this growing company. You will be responsible for running the office and supporting the managing director and team. Your excellent IT skills will enable you to design innovative presentations. 50wpm typing. Microsoft Office Suite.

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Prestigious International Bank is seeking a co-ordinator with the charisma to help build and lead a recruitment team through a period of substantial change and growth. This proactive team needs to be complemented with a capable professional who has excellent communication skills, self confidence and the diplomacy to liaise effectively with Business Managers and Suppliers. A positive decision approach, efficient fast response to meeting managers requirements and p.c. literacy is essential. This challenging role would involve recruiting quality candidates into contract and temporary positions. Preference will be given to individuals with previous recruitment experience.

For further details please call Trish Brooks  
Tel: 0171 588 5888 Fax: 0171 588 9010  
16 St Helens Place, London EC3A 6DP

**PA to MD**  
**£22k**  
**London West End**

This role will appeal to someone who wants to take a leading role in running a small management consultancy based in London's West End. The ideal candidate will have:

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- good organisational skills
- computer literacy in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- an interest in supporting the marketing effort
- a flexible and adaptable approach, able to react to new initiatives.

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**GO GO GO!**  
**PEOPLE COMPANY**  
**£17,000 + Bonus + Bens**

Join the lively team at this exciting new company specialising in recruitment. You will be responsible for the recruitment of sales and marketing staff for a variety of companies. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in recruitment and a strong understanding of the sales and marketing industry. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a fast-paced environment. The company offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please contact the recruitment consultants at 0171 782 7586.

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**£17,500**  
**+ Benefits**

**Gregarious Second Jobber**  
**Exciting City Position**

Call secretary with some of the finest people in a leading property company. Work with major blue chip companies in the "square mile". Providing full support to busy executives and managing confidential enquiries. 40 wpm.

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**High Calibre Professional**  
**PA to European Supreme**  
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PA to OT, Subsidised Mortgage, Loans, Share Options, FRP, Subsidised Restaurant, IFSTL.

Manages and organises secretarial support as well as 70 wpm and 100 wpm shorthand. Liaison with senior executives and support to the Managing Director. Excellent opportunity for a professional with a strong background in secretarial work. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a fast-paced environment. The company offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please contact the recruitment consultants at 0171 782 7586.

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**ROC Recruitment**

**WA**  
**£16k + Bens**

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Do you get paid overtime with free use of an in-house gym, a fantastic free lunch, healthcare, a pension scheme, bonus and a season ticket loan? If so, then why not use your flair for graphics packages combined with your excellent secretarial skills working for this world-wide firm of Managing Consultants? Supporting a young and lively team you will work with them on different projects and they will rely on you to the full. 50wpm typing, PowerPoint and a willing and flexible attitude essential.

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**CAREER SECRETARIES!!**  
**c£16,000**

Let us OPEN THE DOORS to exciting career opportunities within some of the UK's most prestigious "blue chip" companies. We currently have Secretarial vacancies within:

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With your 2 years secretarial experience and excellent knowledge of W4W we can arrange immediate interviews for exciting positions with real career prospects.

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An equal opportunity employer.

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**£20,000**  
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**Legal Secretary**  
**High West End Law Firm**  
**ISTL, FRP, NC Pension, Life, Health, BUPA**

Work in a pleasant office for a leading law firm. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a fast-paced environment. The company offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please contact the recruitment consultants at 0171 782 7586.

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**Move Into Media**  
**Trendy Office Manager**  
**Giant Publishing Organisation**

NC Pension, LV's, Share Options, 25 days Holiday

Join the lively team at this exciting new company specialising in recruitment. You will be responsible for the recruitment of sales and marketing staff for a variety of companies. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in recruitment and a strong understanding of the sales and marketing industry. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a fast-paced environment. The company offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please contact the recruitment consultants at 0171 782 7586.

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**+ benefits**

**Executive Level Position**  
**Total Involvement Guaranteed**  
**PA/Office Manager**

Business, Financial Services, BUPA, Life, Permanent Health, 20 days Holiday

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**ROC Recruitment**

**ROC**  
**£21,000**  
**+ Bank Benefits**

**Senior Secretary**  
**International Investment Agency**  
**FRP, LV's, Share Options, 25 days Holiday**

Providing support to the two senior executives in a professional and efficient manner. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a fast-paced environment. The company offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please contact the recruitment consultants at 0171 782 7586.

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**ROC Recruitment**

**ROC**  
**£20,000**  
**+ Bank Benefits**

**Bi-Sexual Secretary**  
**Global Investment Bank**  
**ISTL, FRP, NC Pension, Life, Health, BUPA**

Use your natural language (French or German) writing to right hand to young, active and experienced managers and executives. Must be published with 25 wpm and a strong background in secretarial work.

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**ROC Recruitment**

**ROC**  
**£30,000**  
**+ Excl Benefits**

**PA to Chairman**  
**High Profile Company**  
**Corporate Finance Specialists**

Excellent Package

Very approachable Chairman of rapidly expanding specialist company is looking for a PA with first class skills who is intelligent, professional and well presented. Excellent rewards for the right individual. Must have experience of a corporate, client driven environment with a positive approach to business. Banking background and languages ideal but not essential.

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**+ O/T & Benefits**

**Graduate Opportunities**  
**Leading Management Consultants**  
**NC Pension, Life, Health, BUPA**

As a Study Secretary you will provide clerical support to a number of consultants and will be responsible for the day to day running of the office. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a fast-paced environment. The company offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please contact the recruitment consultants at 0171 782 7586.

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**+ Excl Benefits**

**Second Jobber/Graduate**  
**Secretary in Public Affairs**  
**Major International Blue Chip**

Business, FRP, Gym Membership, NC Pension, Free Lunch, ISTL, 25 Days Holiday, FRP

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**ROC Recruitment**

**ROC**  
**£18,500**  
**+ Benefits**

**Use Your German**  
**Senior Secretary**  
**Business, Life, Health, BUPA, NC Pension, ISTL**

First class and fluent German an essential asset for an equally first class role in a major City of financial services. Must be published with 25 wpm and a strong background in secretarial work.

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**ROC**  
**£18,000**  
**+ Benefits**

**Move Into Personnel**  
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**Life, ISTL, FRP, Pension Scheme**

Top legal firm needs confident, polished, energetic secretary with great verbal and written skills to support the Managing Director and a variety of roles. Excellent opportunity for a professional with a strong background in secretarial work.

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Barratt's St James's Walk development in London's Docklands reflects the popularity of terraced housing in a traditional style

## Why the terrace is best

The debate about Britain's imminent housing explosion has intensified since March, when final responses to the Government's discussion paper on our future were handed in. But it is difficult to imagine any better way of providing the high-density housing we need than the British terrace.

David Pretty, Barratt's Southern chairman, says: "Even where flat-dwelling is the norm, many people still instinctively feel that the ideal property is their own house, with their own front door and garden." The Department of the Environment's Green Paper, *Household Growth: Where Shall We Live?*, set out to provoke debate about where to put the 4.4 million households that will need to be accommodated by the year 2016 (because of longer lifespans, the rising divorce rate, and a trend for people to live on their own). The Department favours fitting 60 per cent of these households into high density housing in existing towns and cities.

Robert Jones, the Planning Minister, says: "High density does not have to mean high-rise. Terraced housing with a garden — the staple of London housing — is very versatile if well-designed."

Even without Government backing, terraced houses were already coming back into fashion in 1995, when 59 per cent of valuers surveyed by the *NatWest Bank* said

Terraced homes are poised to make a comeback. Christine Webb reports on the housing that is particularly British

they thought terraced houses were the first choice for first-time buyers. This is not surprising. Terraces are integral to the British townscape, and set us apart from the rest of Europe. More of us already live in terraced houses than in any other kind of property.

The way was cleared for a standard street width after the Great Fire of London when the architect John Wood built the facade of the north side of Queen's Square, Bath, to look like a Palladian mansion.

The idea was seized on by London architects. Regent's Park terraces were even faced with stucco and painted gold to look like Bath stone. Elegant flat-fronted Georgian terraces followed, and then came the building bonanza of the 19th century. The Victorians and Edwardians built them speculatively, usually following in the wake of railway lines. By 1911, 87 per cent of British homes were terraced.

Plenty of modern builders have returned to the genre, although Keith McEwan, David Wilson Homes northern region chairman, is less than wholehearted. "Our

buyers prefer semi-detached homes to terraces," he says. "Today's buyer wants more for his money and a traditional semi represents more perceived value than a terrace. And if there are more than three or four terraced houses in a block they're harder to sell. We build terraces on 33 per cent of sites, mostly for first-time buyers in the £45,000 to £55,000 bracket."

Wimpey Homes says it has never stopped building terraced housing, which it targets at the first time buyer. Malcolm Pitcher, the national marketing director, says: "Now housing is more affordable, people can start with a two-bedroom terraced house. Most of us would like more space."

This is a trend picked up by The House Builders Federation. David Mote, a spokesman, says single people are going for more space. "Our research shows single occupants can range from a well-off IT executive to a widow or divorcee. They all have friends or family who want to stay. These small households the Government alludes to won't want one-bed houses."

There is a shortage of building land, and we know people have not

been building houses fast enough since 1991 to meet the target by 2016, so there may well be a shortfall.

Barratt has been busy terracing away, including at three developments of traditional houses in Limehouse, Poplar and Bermondsey, London, that are all virtually snapped up ahead of construction. These areas are otherwise dominated by apartments, and the two-bedroom houses started at under £70,000. But almost every buyer said they felt home meant a proper house with a garden to tend and relax in.

Leigh Stark, 29, a chef, bought his Barratt terraced house in Bermondsey. His home is so central he cycles to work. "It's the best of both worlds," he says, "a house with a garden close to the centre of town. I'm really chuffed."

The Berkeley Homes group is building terraced houses, often called town houses, at various sites throughout Britain. From 199 terraced Victorian-style villas at its Oxford Waterside development, where a four-bedroom end-of-terrace villa costs £275,000, to St Dunstan's Gate, Canterbury, where a two-bedroom mid-terrace costs £78,500. Here the terraces are such a striking reproduction of Victorian speculative building that one feels one is stepping back into the golden era of the terrace — or is a new one dawning?

Katherine Bergen on a grand house about to regain its true destiny

## An office becomes a mansion

The urge to do some arithmetic when presented with an £8 million property with 16,700 sq ft on a 120-year lease is irresistible. Elgin House in Mayfair works out at £479 a sq ft. It is difficult to know what to expect from that sq ft. As someone who is 5ft 6in tall, my entire length cost less to clothe than that. But certainly the foot of space that I occupied as I stood looking out at the stunning view down Hill Street into Berkeley Square through one of the five tall French windows in the 45ft-long drawing room felt like value for money.

Elgin House is not really a home yet. On three floors the grand reception rooms have been converted to office space and four separate apartments occupy one side of the building. Plans for reconversion have been put to the Grosvenor Estate and are being finalised, but as it now exists, the "house" is an uneasy mixture.

But if potential buyers can con-



Three-bedroom apartment overlooking Hyde Park: £1.5 million

jure up some imaginary furniture, it is possible to see how easily these offices could be turned back into the main rooms of a grand house. The proportions of the rooms have hardly been altered and, except for an unlikely number of lavatories, which were for office staff, they would need only redecoration and furnishing to taste.

From the outside, the red-brick building looks like the graceful townhouse that it once was. One of the huge offices in the basement could be turned into a kitchen, and another, lit by a glass pyramid skylight, would be suitable for a

swimming pool and gymnasium area.

Though the four apartments have been carved out of the original house, the rooms are also well-proportioned and each have two bedrooms and two bathrooms, as well as elegant reception rooms.

The first of these would make an impressive bedroom suite for the new owners. The three remaining could house staff or grown-up children and, conveniently, a separate staircase serves this wing. At the back of the house is a small paved garden. This leads to a more verdant communal garden with a fountain, accessible only to the 12 houses that surround it.

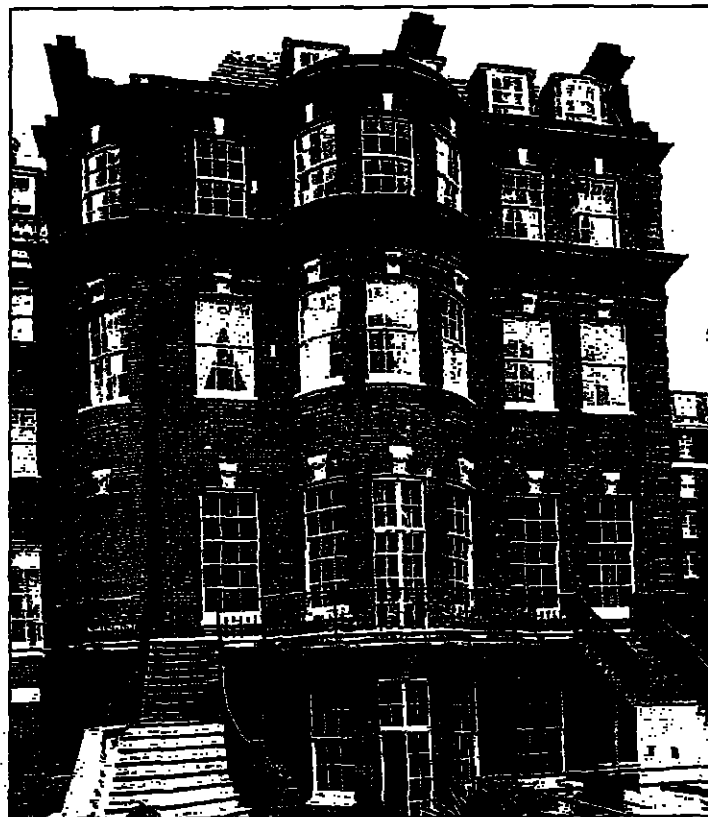
Nikolaus Pevsner, the art historian, probably would not have quibbled at the price. He said of the building: "It might well be called the finest terraced house in London." He added that it had "the grandest staircase and the grandest drawing room of an 18th-century private house in London". That might persuade a buyer hesitating over the cost of extra work.

Agent: De Groot Colles, 0171-235 8090

For about a fifth of the price of Elgin House, a three-bedroom apartment overlooking Hyde Park is available for £1.5 million on a 49.5-year lease. At 3,336 sq ft, this is also about a fifth of the floor space of the property in Mayfair. It is said to be in "superb decorative order", so a new owner should not have to make a large financial commitment to redecorate.

The apartment is on the first floor of a stucco-fronted Regency building in Hyde Park Gardens and has views over three acres of landscaped gardens and the park. The rooms have 15ft high ceilings and both the main reception room and the master bedroom have floor-to-ceiling sash windows.

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Elgin House, in Hill Street, Mayfair: £8 million, or £479 a sq ft

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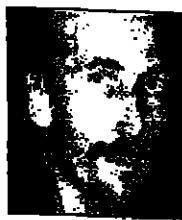












## SIMON BARNES 53

Tiger Woods and the phenomenon of total eclipse

## SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

## TABLE TENNIS 53

Dominant Cooke keeps England on path to final



Middlesbrough face test of character

# Replay drives Robson to distraction

BY DAVID MADDOCK

HAVING suffered the anguish of conceding a goal late in extra time on successive Sundays, Middlesbrough must raise themselves for a third time tonight as they seek to offset a relegation battle with the silverware that the club has craved for 121 years.

Middlesbrough enjoyed their day out at Wembley, although their thoughts are now seemingly dominated by a chaotic end-of-season programme in which much larger issues are at stake than the Coca-Cola Cup final replay against Leicester City.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, did not exactly say as much yesterday, but he dwelt for a considerably longer period on the perceived injustice of not extending the season than he did on his side's prospects at Hillsborough. The hectic schedule that his side must endure, he said, means that the FA Carling Premiership game against Sunderland on Saturday assumes far more significance, given its influence over the relegation issue, than even the prospect of lifting Middlesbrough's first significant trophy.

"I have told the players that, even if we beat Leicester, there will be no celebrations," Robson said. "We cannot have a drink in the dressing-room afterwards because the game against Sunderland is so important. Clearly, our main priority is to stay in the Premiership, and we have to be ready for that match. Whichever side wins [on Saturday] will help themselves immensely at the bottom."

Robson is not amused by the Premier League's announcement that the season will not be extended to accommodate two semi-final replays, which have increased the number of games that Middlesbrough will be forced to play over the

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Kick-off 7.45pm (live on Sky Sports 3)

next three weeks. They may have to play as many as ten, including a daunting last week of four matches.

It is a sobering prospect that such an important issue as relegation from the Premiership, and the loss of attendant riches, can be decided by games against Aston Villa, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and Leeds United within nine days. No wonder that Robson was less than occupied with the Coca-Cola Cup.

"The Premiership have made it clear they are unwilling to budge," he said. "It is ridiculous. How are we ex-

pected to compete fairly against the other teams at the bottom of the table with all those matches? I remember the same thing happening at Manchester United, when we had to play four games in eight days at the end of the season when we were going for the title. The fact that we had to play so many games cost us the championship."

Given such an exhausting programme, it would be tempting to dismiss Middlesbrough's prospects this season, especially after comments made by Ravanelli suggesting that he needed a rest. Robson, though, pointed to the Italian's performance in the FA Cup semi-final against Chesterfield on Sunday. "He looked

strong and full of energy," Robson said.

Leicester have no such diversions and will be hoping to capitalise on any exhaustion in the opposition camp. They are virtually clear of all relegation worries and victory tonight would crown a season that has already exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

Leicester were favourites to go down but instead have reached one final and were only denied a possible place in the FA Cup quarter-finals by a controversial refereeing decision. They will also hope for at least mid-table respectability in the Premiership. This is English football, though, and therefore even such a success story must still have its disruptions. It comes in the form of Pontus Kaamark, the man-marker whose enthusiasm in suppressing Juninho at Wembley did so much towards earning his side a replay.

For all his ability in the role, Kaamark professed this week his distaste at performing such a task. That did not go down well with Martin O'Neill, the passionate and articulate Leicester manager, who responded to such insubordination with some acid. "Oh really," he replied when hearing of Kaamark's objections. "Well, maybe he won't have to do that job, because he might not be playing."

Leicester will probably be unchanged from the first match. Middlesbrough will wait on the fitness of Mark Schwarzer, their Australian goalkeeper, and Robson must choose between Kinder, who was dismissed on Sunday, and Fleming. A repeat of the closeness of the initial contest at Wembley is likely, but Leicester may prevail this time.



Perfect weather greeted the start of the new season in the Parks, where the Durham opening batsmen were full of the joys of spring

## Test captains complaining of overwork

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, and his Pakistan counterpart, Wasim Akram, joined forces yesterday to call for a reduction in the number of matches on the international calendar.

Akram also proposed a longer break between one-day internationals to allow players adequate rest, rather than scheduling matches in quick succession to please spectators and sponsors.

"We are also human beings," he said shortly after

arriving in Colombo for a two-Test series with Sri Lanka.

Ranatunga said he would support a cutback in the programme when the Test captains get together in July at a meeting arranged by the International Cricket Council.

While members of his squad practised at a local club ground, Akram said that he was doubtful for the first Test, which starts on Saturday. "My bowling arm is not 100 per cent," he said. "The ligaments have been weakened by playing too much cricket."

Akram, the only player with

more than 300 wickets in both Test and one-day internationals, added: "The injury became quite bad in the recent Sharjah Cup tournament. The only cure is rest. I am neither a bowler nor a batsman, but my chances are quite remote."

Although Sri Lanka beat Pakistan in Sharjah, Akram said that he was confident of winning the Test matches. "I think we have the better five-day side and our fielding is stronger," he said.

Ranatunga admitted that

Test matches were a "different ball game" but added that Sri Lanka, as the holders of the World Cup, were not short of confidence, despite a disastrous Test series in New Zealand last month.

"That is all history now," Ranatunga said. "We are looking forward to doing well in the future. Pakistan have a good bowling line-up, but we have the batsmen to take care of it."

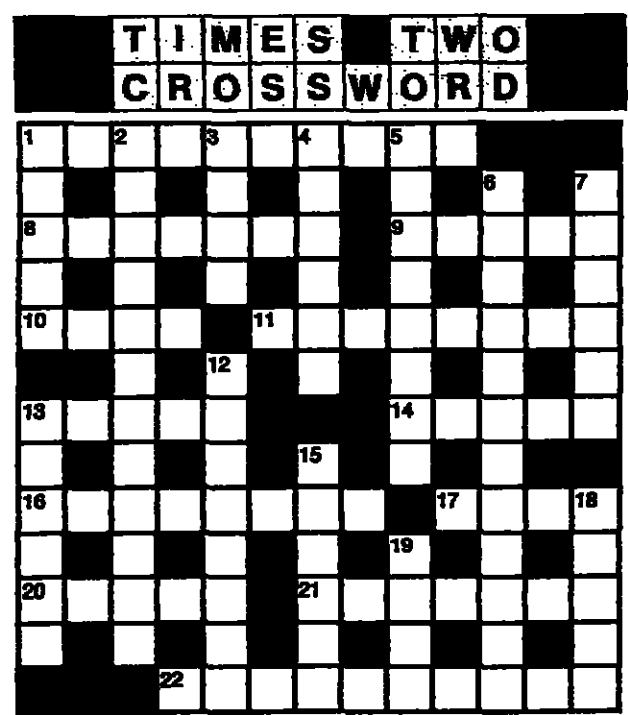
Two of the Pakistan party, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, along with the coach, Mushtaq Mohammad, have

yet to arrive for the tour, which opens today with a two-day game against a Sri Lanka Board XI that will be captained by Marvan Atapattu.

Atapattu, who has replaced Asanka Gurusinha in the Test side, is one of the young Sri Lanka players who has impressed Akram.

"I think they need some young blood," he said. "They need a couple more batsmen like Atapattu, who is a good player. Then they will be all right."

Students struggle, page 54



No 1069

- ACROSS
- Addendum to letter (10)
  - Fabulous one-horned beast (7)
  - Academy Award (5)
  - Cook in dry heat (4)
  - Span, resort: bore, mind (anag.) (8)
  - Arbour (5)
  - Come in (5)
  - Stirring, arousing (8)
  - Muddle; fellow-diners (4)
  - Surface lustre (5)
  - Capital of Libya (7)
  - Long-lived patriarch: eight-bottle bottle (10)

- DOWN
- Lead weight; vertical (5)
  - Difficult position, esp. for batsman (6,6)
  - Fat, lazy person (4)
  - Smuggler: type of bean (6)
  - Made available: if (8)
  - Alone win jackpot (5,3,4)
  - Simple textbook: detonator (6)
  - Make-believe (8)
  - Part of body; boldly confront (6)
  - Grab quickly (6)
  - Hiss quickly; fashionable (5)
  - Prejudice (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1068

ACROSS: 1 Safety first 8 Ghana 9 Revenge 10 Then 11 Coolidge 12 Depend 14 Weasel 17 Sibellus 19 Flab 22 Whitsun 23 Flap 24 Femme fatale

DOWN: 1 Sight 2 Frame-up 3 Toad 4 Farrow 5 Revolver 6 Tuned 7 Reveal 12 Uncle Sam 13 Disown 15 Sultana 16 Nuance 18 Brief 20 Budge 21 Offa

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1064

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ACROSS: 1 Paved 7 Union 8 Poverty 9 Seville 11 Second 13 Give it a go 15 Crow's feet 19 Rodent 21 Leopard 23 Rappart 24 Bazooka 25 Dolls

DOWN: 1 Penny 2 Vixen 3 Daring 4 Guy/s 5 Strict 6 Collage 10 Eater 12 Differ 14 Arsenal 16 Wet rot 17 Torpid 18 Recoil 20 Titus 22 Drag

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## Gould has president's backing

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BOBBY GOULD'S position as the manager of Wales appears to be safe after he was given a vote of confidence by Brian Fear, the president of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), yesterday. Gould could even be offered an extension to his contract, which expires in December, that would take him up to the European championship finals in the year 2000.

Fear was responding to recent criticism of Gould, who was accused by Nathan Blake, the Wales and Bolton Wanderers striker, of making racist remarks to him. Though Gould vigorously denied the claims, many FAW councillors were privately angered that the association should have become embroiled in a dispute of such a delicate and controversial nature.

Also, with Wales's group seven World Cup qualifying

campaign having ended in apparent failure, it was seen as a possible opportunity to replace Gould, who took over in August 1995, and seek a successor to revive the Principality's fortunes. However, Fear has taken a more sympathetic view.

"Bobby has my backing and, I hope, [that of] the rest of the management committee,"



Gould: under pressure

he said yesterday. "I don't think his job is on the line, it's not in danger as far as I am concerned. Two years is not long enough to do the job and I think he should have at least another contract through to the European finals."

Gould has subsequently apologised to Blake for any misinterpretation of remarks that he made during the build-up to the game against Belgium in Cardiff last month. When Gould was handing out the coloured bibs for training, he told Blake that he was "in the blacks".

Blake complained to Neville Southall, the Everton goalkeeper and part-time Wales coach, and although Gould swiftly tried to resolve the issue, Blake declined the olive branch. It was only after the intervention of the Professional Footballers' Association that Blake eventually "acknowledged" Gould's apology.

"I'm sure Bobby's comments about Nathan were not meant to be taken seriously," Fear said. "He has been involved with many coloured players during his career, as a manager and player."

The seven members of the FAW management committee met in emergency session in Wrexham yesterday to discuss the matter. Neither Gould nor Blake was asked to attend.

A report was to be forwarded to the meeting of the 26-strong general council today, at which the anti-Gould lobby is expected to make its feelings known. "It is the full council's decision that holds sway," David Collins, the FAW secretary-general, said.

However, it is unlikely that any action will be taken, at least before December. The FAW is not overburdened with funds and would not be keen to have to pay Gould for the remaining eight months of his contract.

## Uganda's late arrivals test the water

Craig Lord meets a small squad with bedraggled swimming aspirations

It was going swimmingly at the accreditation centre for the world short-course championships here in Gothenburg until three bedraggled and hungry young Ugandans walked through the door and declared themselves ready for competition.

Led by Suleiman Benwa, health instructor, coach, manager, baggage-handler, chaplain and the keeper of a small purse of Ugandan currency, this small squad of aquatic interlopers was informed that sending official entry forms to compete in world championships was the accepted protocol.

Benwa, 25, explained that everything had been such a rush since their federation had given leave for them to represent Uganda, and British Airways had offered free flights to London, that there had been little time left to plan.

While other teams have physiotherapists, doctors, sports scientists, press

officers and nutritionists on board, Benwa explained: "I even had to bring my work clothes with me in a laundry bag because there was no time to go home after work on Saturday."

The journey had begun badly, he said, with the women's team, or rather Joy N'Fashinggabo, getting lost at Entebbe airport and failing to make the plane. Ismail Walu Simbi, 17, had made it but refused to eat anything throughout the 36-hour journey to Sweden, which involved several hours slumbering on seats at Heathrow.

"He just hasn't eaten a thing," Nicola Wanyama, Benwa's assistant team man-

ager, said. Benwa added: "I think Walu Simbi is going to faint. We cannot change our money and he needs his energy."

Walu Simbi certainly will on Friday, day two of the four-day event, when he attempts to improve his personal best time for the 100 metres breaststroke of 1min 20sec; all 46 other entrants have docked 1min 10sec or faster.

After tucking into burgers, chips and Coke, courtesy of *The Times*, the elite of Ugandan swimming faced a wait at the pool. They could not afford hotel accommodation so Benwa's aunt, who lives in Gothenburg, had offered to put them up.

"She doesn't come home from work until five o'clock so we'll wait here - it's too cold to go out there anyway," Benwa, peering out at a few flakes of snow that had started to fall, said. Meanwhile, the Ugandans were waiting for news of N'Fashinggabo's fate - and whether their team would double overnight.

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